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Japan

Miyazawa on Bush Visit, Science Funding, Soviets

OW1912073791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday that Japan needs to expand its international contributions to fund projects in areas such as space and earth sciences, and environmental protection.

In a speech at a business luncheon, Miyazawa also said Japan must assist the Soviet Union and conclude a peace treaty with it now that the world is embarking on a new era.

"Previously when we discussed international cooperation we talked only of official assistance to developing countries," he said.

Miyazawa said Japan needs to be able to assist countries such as the Soviet Union, that are not classified as developing nations, and also pour more money into science and environment projects undertaken by the industrialized world.

"Japan is one of the few countries in the world that has the financial ability to contribute" in these areas, Miyazawa said, hinting at the need to establish a new fund pool.

Miyazawa's comments came shortly after a senior government official said earlier in the day that Japan may not be able to deliver a 1.6 billion dollar contribution sought by the United States to support the construction of the 8 billion dollar superconducting super collider (SSC). U.S. President George Bush is expected to press for Japanese participation in the project, planned for Bush's home constituency of Texas, during the President's January 7-10 visit to Japan.

Earlier in the week, the government abandoned a plan to establish a new tax to raise funds for projects that fall outside the traditional definition of official development assistance (ODA).

On Bush's visit, Miyazawa said he would stress the importance of sharing the same basic values, which he suggested could help overcome growing economic frictions.

"Economic issues are growing severe...but happily we are able to speak frankly and avoid misunderstandings. Even if we engage in debate, the outcome won't be war," he said.

Turning to relations with the disintegrating Soviet Union, Miyazawa called for "good faith" in resolving a dispute over four islands off of Hokkaido seized by Soviet forces at the end of World War II.

"It is extremely unnatural for two major countries like the Soviet Union and Japan not to have a peace treaty" at a time when the world is establishing a new structure, he said.

At home, Miyazawa conceded that the rate of economic growth is slowing, and said he hoped that issuance of government bonds for public works and fiscal loan and investment programs would serve as remedies.

Miyazawa also hinted that lending restrictions to real estate companies would be lifted as land prices are leveling off. A cabinet decision on the restrictions is expected Friday.

Miyazawa said he is not considering issuing bonds to cover a budget deficit.

Miyazawa Hails ROK N-Weapons Announcement

OW1912032891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday welcomed South Korea's declaration that the country was free of nuclear weapons as "quite significant," and urged North Korea to follow through on its pledge to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

"The next step will be for North Korea to keep its promise," Miyazawa told reporters at his official residence.

South Korean President No Tae-u said Wednesday that no nuclear weapons exist anywhere in South Korea, apparently confirming the complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from the country.

Spokesman Praises Australia's Former Leader Hawke

OW1912114991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japan expects continued good relations with Australia under its new Prime Minister Paul Keating, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

"The Japanese Government expects the excellent relationship between Japan and Australia, which occupy positions to the north and south of the Pacific Ocean, to further develop with the Australian Government under its new prime minister," spokesman Taizo Watanabe said in a statement.

Watanabe said Japan highly values the contribution made to the Asia-Pacific region by deposed Australian prime minister Bob Hawke.

He said during Hawke's eight-year, eight-month term, Australia had put forward the concept of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation grouping and contributed in a positive way to diplomacy in the region.

"Japan would also like to express profound appreciation for the contribution the prime minister made toward the furthering of a constructive partnership between Japan and Australia," the statement said.

Miyazawa Shelves Single-Seat Constituency Plan

OW1812161191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1557 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday shelved a plan to introduce a new electoral system combining single-seat constituencies and nationwide proportional representation for the House of Representatives, according to political analysts.

Miyazawa plans to give priority to reapplying the current multiple-seat system for the lower house, the analysts said.

Under the current electoral system, a vote in heavily populated districts is worth much less than one in the least populated areas.

Miyazawa's intention is indirectly stated in a paper on his views on political reform which was handed to former transport minister Takashi Hasegawa when Miyazawa asked him to become chairman of the ruling party's political reform panel.

Hasegawa accepted Miyazawa's offer to assume the post at the political reform headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Miyazawa said in the paper that in order to work on political reform, "the Liberal Democratic Party must hasten to reconstruct the political reform headquarters as soon as possible," indicating he intends to shelve the plan, according to political analysts.

The prime minister said there is a strong feeling among the people that the value of votes should be corrected and the number of Diet members reduced.

Earlier in the day, LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki proposed that opposition parties continue discussing political reform on the same basis as the three political reform bills already rejected by the Diet.

The bills, mainly aimed at introducing a single-seat constituency system in the lower house, were killed in the Diet in late September due to strong resistance by opposition parties as well as within the LDP.

The failure of the passage of the bills cost former prime minister Toshiki Kaifu his job.

All opposition parties rejected Watanuki's proposal. He then proposed that the LDP present a framework for proceeding with political reform after adjusting some areas of its policy.

The interparty consultative body on political reform, created after the Diet scrapped the three bills to continue discussion on the issue, was holding its first meeting since the LDP appointed new party executives.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a single vote disparity of three times or more in elections for the lower house is unconstitutional. A study of last year's census showed there are eight voting districts that have such a disparity.

The government-proposed bills aim at reducing the total number of seats in the lower house to 471 from the present 512, with 300 representatives to be elected from newly-created single-seat electoral districts and another 171 on a proportional basis.

The proposed bills aimed at reducing the vote disparity to two times.

LDP Budget Platform Stresses More Contributions

OW1912094791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Thursday adopted a budget platform calling for greater international contributions by Japan in a period of "historic transition."

The document, which serves as a guideline for compiling the fiscal 1992 national budget, said the world is groping for a new order after the basic framework of the post-World War II era has crumbled.

Expectations of Japan from the rest of the world are not confined to economic matters, but are surging in various fields, it said.

Therefore, the government should try to bolster its diplomatic functions and boost international contributions, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), as well as cultural and peacekeeping activities on the international stage.

The platform cited environmental protection and science and technology cooperation as especially important fields of international contributions.

On agricultural problems, the document, while emphasizing the importance of food security, did not make a point of defending Japan's virtual ban on rice imports.

The statement also calls for cutting spending through continued administrative and fiscal reforms to meet the fiscal restraint, and insisted the government should not issue debt-financing bonds.

In order to improve the infrastructure as a step to upgrade people's living conditions, it said the government should make expanded use of fiscal investment and loans as a financial resource.

In particular, concerning the poor housing conditions in Japan, it is imperative for the government to solve the land problem, which exerts great effects on Japanese society and the economy, the platform said.

The ruling party is resolved to promote a comprehensive and effective land policy, including setting up a legal framework to prevent a recurrence of the steep land price inflation in the late 1980s, in an effort to build a society where people can bask in a true sense of affluence, it added.

Trade Minister, Business Leaders Discuss Concerns

OW1912035091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO--Japanese business leaders reiterated calls to the government Thursday to take measures to boost the economy.

In a breakfast meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, members of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry also criticized the proposed continuation of tax surcharges originally imposed to raise money for Japan's contributions to the Persian Gulf war.

"Our pessimism about the economy has been intensifying. Calls for government measures to boost the economy have become louder day by day," said Rokuro Ishikawa, the chamber's chairman.

Ishikawa called for an early scrapping of the government curbs on property-linked lending, a boost in the issue of government construction bonds in the fiscal 1992 budget, and more flexible economic steering.

He criticized the government move to keeping the Gulf war tax surcharges in place, saying this would mean a breach of a pledge to remove them from next april.

Watanabe, responding to the business leaders' concerns, said the economy needs "increasing vigilance."

However, he stopped short of promising concrete steps, only saying that the government will monitor the effects on the economy of the cut in the official discount rate in November.

Automakers Fear Renewed Trade Dispute With U.S.

OW1912091591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 19 Dec 91

["News Focus" by Isao Ikariya: "Tough Year Ahead for Japanese Auto Industry"]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—With domestic demand on the wane and pressure in the United States to "buy American" expected to grow, the Japanese auto industry is bracing itself for a tough 1992 with caution about its business and fear of a renewed trade dispute with the U.S.

The outgoing year is about to end on a dismal note for automakers as domestic sales of new cars fell for seven months in a row from May through November, making it certain new car sales for 1991 will slip below year-earlier levels for the first time in seven years.

Market conditions going into 1992 look just as tough because the continuing slowdown in the Japanese economy and the resulting erosion in consumer confidence will likely put a lid on domestic car sales, industry officials and analysts say.

Moreover, industry officials worry trade in autos and auto parts may dominate talks between Tokyo and Washington next year because of the steady increase of the Japanese share in the U.S. auto market and the chronic Japanese trade surplus in the auto sector.

In 1990, the sector accounted for some 75 percent of the 41 billion dollar U.S. trade deficit with Japan, of which motor vehicles made up half and auto parts represented nearly a quarter, according to U.S. statistics.

A senior U.S. trade official has already issued a warning ushering in a year of trade frictions as some U.S. lawmakers beat the drum over what they call unfair trade practices in Japan.

"I expect in the next year the leading issue to be discussed in trade talks will be the auto sector," said U.S. Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade Michael Farren last October at the Tokyo Motor Show.

His warning may be realized all too soon when U.S. President George Bush comes to Tokyo on January 7-10 with a powerful trade mission that includes the top executives of the "big three" U.S. automakers.

The unprecedented visit by General Motors Corp. (GM) Chairman Robert Stempel, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Harold Poling, and Lee Iacocca of Chrysler Corp. coincides with the deepest U.S. auto industry recession in a decade.

The weak U.S. auto market is characterized by GM's announcement Wednesday of a sweeping restructuring plan that calls for the closing of 21 plants over the next few years and the slashing of tens of thousands of jobs.

Sen. Donald Riegle, a Democrat from Michigan, home of the auto industry, blamed Japan for GM's financial and economic woes when the U.S. auto giant disclosed the plan.

"This is very much an economic Pearl Harbor," Riegle reportedly told U.S. reporters.

Riegle, chairman of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat, reportedly plan to introduce legislation next week that would limit Japan's access to the U.S. auto and auto parts markets.

U.S. automakers and parts suppliers say trade barriers are a major cause of difficulties in expanding sales in Japan, a claim rejected by Japanese who say their market is completely open to imports.

Japanese automakers, while insisting the Americans have not made much effort to break into the Japanese market, have taken a series of measures to boost procurements of U.S. auto parts at their U.S plants and in Japan.

But as one official at a major Japanese automaker in charge of parts procurements laments, "There are no longer any parts we want to buy from America."

This view is shared by most auto industry executives. A government source pinpoints the poor quality of U.S.-made auto parts as the prime factor behind the trade imbalance.

"The U.S. side often speaks of Japanese import barriers as the cause of poor sales of auto parts made in the United States, but they have a poorer performance than Japanese parts, and moreover, they break down quite often," the source said.

On another front, the Japanese industry looks set to run into an annual battle with the government to remove or relax self-imposed restrictions on auto exports to the United States.

Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp., took the lead last week in demanding a lifting of the restraint. "I have been against it in light of the free trade principle," he said in a remark which appears a common voice in the industry.

Japan has maintained its self-restraints on auto exports to the United States since 1981, and has kept the ceiling unchanged at 2.3 million a year since 1985.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is expected to announce a decision as early as January on whether to extend the restrictions in fiscal 1992 for the 12th consecutive year.

Mazda, Honda To Increase Foreign-Made Imports

OW1912092891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Mazda Motor Corp. said Thursday it plans to virtually double the amount of foreign-made products it purchases in fiscal 1994 from what it imported in fiscal 1990.

Mazda said it intends to import 3.7 billion dollars or some 481 billion yen in foreign-made vehicles, auto parts, and other goods in 1994, about double the 1,839 million dollars worth purchased last fiscal year.

The drive to increase imports will include a plan by Mazda to buy as of 1993 small pickup trucks it has commissioned Ford Motor Co. of the United States to produce and sell them through its domestic sales network.

Mazda's plan, already underway, to increase sales in Japan of passenger cars produced by Ford and French and Italian automakers is also part of the firm's program to boost imports.

Meanwhile, Honda Motor Co. said Thursday it hopes to increase in fiscal 1994 the amount of foreign-made goods it buys by about 1.7- fold from fiscal 1990.

Honda's import target for fiscal 1994 is 9.12 billion dollars or some 1,185.6 billion yen against the 5.47 billion dollars worth bought last year.

Honda's local production of cars in the U.S. and its drive to raise Japanese sales of automobiles produced by Chrysler Corp. will help increase the firm's value of imports 1.6 fold.

Its import target for fiscal 1994 is 1.22 billion yen.

The automaker will be able to reach close to 90 percent of its target for procurement of foreign-made goods through increased purchases of parts from overseas plants and other means.

Its target for such goods totals 7.9 billion dollars.

NEC To Double Imports, Overseas Procurement

OW1912090091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—NEC Corp. announced Thursday a plan to expand its local procurement overseas and increase imports to Japan of such electronic goods as semiconductors.

According to the plan, NEC aims to double fiscal 1990 import levels, which were 900 million U.S. dollars, to 1.8 billion dollars in fiscal 1995.

While doubling the value of production at its overseas subsidiaries in the same period from 2.2 billion dollars to around 4.1 billion dollars, the company will increase by two and a half times the amount of locally procured goods, according to the plan.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has been urging various companies to take concrete measures to ease trade friction.

Toshiba Corp. and Matsushita Electronic Industrial Co. in the electronics sector have announced similar plans.

Kawasaki Steel To Expand Annual Imports

OW1912111291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Kawasaki Steel Corp. disclosed Thursday plans to increase the value of its imports annually by 10 percent in the coming years from an estimated 20 million dollars in fiscal 1991 ending next March.

Officials said the company's "business global partnership program" is in line with the expressed aim of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to redress Japan's trade surplus.

Kawasaki was the first steelmaker to announce an import expansion program to comply with a MITI request for increased imports by Japanese industries.

Under present plans, Kawasaki will promote joint-venture projects, technical cooperation, marketing tie-ups, and research and development with foreign steelmakers and semiconductor manufacturers, the officials said.

Gas Companies To Adopt Import Boosting Policies

OW1912122091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japan's three largest gas companies announced their plans Thursday to take import boosting measures in fiscal 1992 as their way of contributing toward trimming Japan's massive trade surplus.

The plans drawn up by Tokyo Gas Co., Osaka Gas Co., and Toho Gas Co. are aimed to give transparency to the way they procure products and make it easier for foreign companies to participate in tenders.

The main points of the plans are as follows:

—The gas companies will publicize their plans for procurement of materials and equipment, together with their bidding procedures.

—Orders, in principle, will be given only to winners of nominated tenders.

—Information on the bidding will be publicized, whenever necessary.

—The gas companies will make efforts to expand imports of products.

The three gas companies now import a total of 272 billion yen worth of liquefied natural gas a year, as well as computer-related equipment.

Hasegawa Accepts Political Reform Panel Post

OW1812142791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Former Transport Minister Takashi Hasegawa accepted Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's offer Wednesday to assume the post of chairman of the political reform headquarters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, party officials said.

Masayoshi Ito, former foreign minister, resigned in October as chairman of the headquarters to protest against the failure of the passage of the government-proposed political reform bill.

The legislation mainly aimed at the introduction of a single-seat constituency system in the House of Representatives to replace the current multi-seat system.

At present, the post is temporarily held by Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council.

Hasegawa previously also served as minister of justice and minister of labor.

SDP Chief Considering SDF's UN Participation

OW1912035191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Chairman Makoto Tanabe of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) implied Thursday that the nation's largest opposition party may approve Self-Defense Forces (SDF) participation in cease-fire monitoring missions.

On the opening day of a three-day SDP regular convention, Tanabe said Japan should offer its help after conflicts end, by finding ways to prevent the recurrence of disputes and by participating in peacekeeping activities, implying that SDF personnel should take part in cease-fire monitoring missions like those carried out by the United Nations.

Based on the spirit of the Japanese constitution, he said, Japan should contribute to disaster relief and cooperate in food, medical, and environmental problems, as well as save refugees in troubled regions.

Japan's constitution bans the use of military forces as a means of settling international disputes.

Noting that Japan's international contribution measures should shift from "realistic policy to practice," Tanabe called for serious negotiations on the issue between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties.

He said the SDP's responsibility has increased after the virtual abandonment of the peacekeeping cooperation bill.

The government and the LDP basically gave up on trying to pass a bill allowing overseas dispatch of SDF, after strong refusal of support by opposition parties during a recent Diet extended session.

Tanabe also express disappointment with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, saying the party's "expectations were betrayed."

"Prime Minister Miyazawa chose confrontation of power and tried to enforce adoption of the peacekeeping cooperation bill," Tanabe said. "Our expectations for dialogue between LDP and opposition parties were betrayed."

Saying the LDP's policies are in a "deadlock," Tanabe said the SDP's newly established shadow cabinet will prepare for replacing the ruling party in order to regain the public trust and hope about politics.

Sanyo To Supply Production Equipment to PRC

OW1812062991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. announced Wednesday it has agreed to supply technology and production equipment for rotary compressors to China with Toyota Tsusho Corp. and China National Machinery Import and Export Corp.

Under the agreement, Shenyang Air Conditioner Factory will build a plant to produce air conditioner compressors in Shenyang, Liaoning, which will be the first full-scale production facility of its kind in China, Sanyo officials said.

Initial output at the new plant, scheduled to begin operations in early 1994, is estimated at 150,000 units a year with plans to increase production to 300,000 units in the future, they said.

Sanyo and Toyota Tsusho, a medium-sized trading house, have had favorable relations with the factory through a 1984 technological assistance contract, they said.

Nissan Motors Opens Trainee Centers in PRC

OW1812124691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 18 KYODO—Nissan Motor Co., Japan's second largest automaker, has opened trainee centers in China to give employees practice in repairing and maintenance, using the latest technology, officials said Wednesday.

The trainee centers opened in Beijing and Guangdong Province and started business Wednesday, the officials said.

Nissan already has 25 repair and maintenance service centers in China but decided it needed to provide training so that its personnel would know how to deal with the latest models, which contain many electronic parts and new materials, they said.

North Korea

U.S. Congressman Solarz, Entourage Depart 19 Dec

SK1912110291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Stephen Solarz, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his entourage left here today.

They were seen off by Song Ho-kyong, vice-chairman of the Korean Foreign Affairs Society and director of the Institute of Disarmament and Peace, and other officials concerned.

Cheney's Remarks on U.S. Forces in South Scored

SK1912050991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Shameless Sophism of Aggressor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—The United States is coming out with every conceivable pretext to avoid the withdrawal of its forces from South Korea today when it is surfacing as an urgent demand of the times.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney declared a few days ago that the U.S. forces would stay in South Korea until a radical change takes place in "the hostile military attitude" of the North. At the U.S.-South Korea "Security Consultative Meeting" some time ago, the U.S. authorities cried over the "nuclear program of the North" and blared that they would keep their forces in South Korea until this "danger" is removed.

This is an ill-advised sophism reversing black and white and an unpardonable criminal intrigue to perpetuate their occupation of South Korea and continue to seek aggression.

The news analyst continues:

The United States, having turned South Korea into a dangerous hotbed of nuclear war, schemes to plunge the Korean people into a nuclear scourge and, to this end, stages an unbroken chain of military maneuvers including the test nuclear war "Team Spirit" against the DPRK.

Yet it has the cheek to set afloat the fiction of "hostile military attitude" of the North.

"Hostile military attitude" does not become the DPRK which has consistently pursued a peaceful policy.

The United States, the nuclear superpower which has deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea and keeps its finger on the nuclear trigger against the DPRK, is putting pressure on and threatening with a military action the DPRK, a non-nuclear state which is neither willing nor able to produce nuclear weapons, with a fiction of "nuclear program" and blatantly declares that it will not withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea. This can be done only by an aggressor and a robber.

This is its last-ditch efforts to turn the Korean peninsula into a theatre of war and get rid of a serious crisis, proceeding from its world strategy and its Asian-Pacific and Korean strategy.

The United States must stop the war moves against the Korean people and immediately withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

U.S. Commander's Remarks on Inspections Viewed

SK1912031791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] According to a report, in an interview with a newspaper company in Seoul on 16 December RisCassi, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces occupying South Korea, said that the issue of nuclear inspection is an issue between us and the United Nations, not an issue between us and the United States. This is indeed a brazen-faced and absurd utterance.

As is known, the United States has deployed more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and staged, together with the South Korean puppets, such a nuclear war exercise as the Team Spirit exercise every year. Thus, it has perpetually threatened us. Therefore, to remove the nuclear threat against us and to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula the United States should withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea, and this should be confirmed and verified through inspection.

Such demands of ours are only too natural, for we are precisely those people who are receiving the U.S. nuclear threat.

This notwithstanding, RisCassi, urging us to submit unilaterally to nuclear inspection on the plea of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, clamored that the United States cannot accept any inspection. This cannot but be an absurd utterance like a thief turning on the owner.

Thus, the United States has exposed its criminal schemes designed to justify its crime of deploying nuclear weapons in South Korea and to continue its nuclear blackmail against us. However, this cannot fool anyone.

If the United States had not dragged nuclear weapons into South Korea, the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula would not have been raised, and the issue of concluding a nuclear safeguards agreement between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the issue of nuclear inspection would have already been smoothly resolved. The solution to the issue of nuclear inspection on the Korean peninsula depends on the U.S. attitude. The United States cannot escape its responsibility for having caused the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and should withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea at the earliest possible date.

Yun Ki-pok Urges End to Team Spirit Exercises

SK1912052991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

["North and South Must Put Agreement Into Practice"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—The North and the South must honestly put into practice their agreement from a true position to reconcile themselves to each other, prevent a war, promote a great unity and unified development of the nation and achieve the reunification at an early date in the 1990's.

This is stressed by Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, in a statement December 18 on "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South" adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

The statement declares that the agreement adopted at the recent high-level talks is a common peace and reunification program of the nation which can match the July 4 joint statement in nature, content and significance and is another brilliant fruition achieved by our nation in the efforts for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

It is entirely thanks to the meticulous care and energetic and wise guidance of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song to North-South dialogue that it has borne such fruition today, continuing through turns and twists though the anti-communist, anti-DPRK confrontation campaign was daily intensified in South Korea with intolerable slanders against us and it was suspended and resumed time and again owing to the deliberate delaying tactics of one side.

The adoption of the agreement is no more than the first step in ensuring a durable peace in our country, dispelling political misunderstanding and distrust and promoting a unified development of the nation in all spheres such as economy, culture and sports through reconciliation and unity, the statement says, and goes on:

The point is that the North and the South make the agreement just adopted actually pay off.

What is important above all is that the sides should have correct stand and position of faithfully implementing "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South".

The adoption of the agreement would be of no significance if a side acts contrary to the agreement after its adoption as in the past.

The sides should take a step needed for the effectuation of the agreement as soon as possible so that instruments of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" of legal effect can be exchanged at the sixth inter-Korean talks.

Now that the agreement was adopted, whether it is implemented smoothly or not largely depends on whether the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks is opened or not.

The key to the opening of the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks as scheduled is to stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which are staged in South Korea from February every year .

Availing myself of this opportunity, I strongly urge the South side's authorities to make a resolute decision to give up the "Team Spirit 92" joint military exercises as they promised us.

We will make every sincere effort for a smooth implementation of the historical "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" as we have always remained faithful to the idea and spirit of the July 4 joint statement.

We expect that the South side's authorities, too, will sincerely implement the provisions of the agreement in response to the ardent desire of the entire fellow countrymen for peace and reunification of the country.

U.S. Air Force Holds Military Exercises 16 Dec

SK1912042891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command brought an overseas-based KC-135 tanker plane to the air above the West Sea off Kunsan on December 16 to stage an exercise of refueling in the air fighter-bombers, according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets on December 17 mobilized C-130 transport planes with commandos aboard in a parachuting exercise aimed at infiltration into the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea.

On the 16th, tank, artillery and motorized infantry units of the puppet army took up positions and staged an offensive exercise intended to increase the capacity of attacking the North with the backing of fighter-bombers and assault planes.

The warplanes mobilized in various aerial military exercises against the northern half of the country in the South Korean airspace on the 17th totalled some 500.

Vice President Pak Song-chol on N-S Agreement

SK1912083691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Press statement by Pak Song-chol, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and vice president of the DPRK, issued on 16 December in connection with the adoption of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South at the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks—read by announcer]

[Text] Amid the ever-heightening yearning of all the fellow countrymen for reunification, the historic Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South was adopted at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks.

Through the said agreement, the North and the South reconfirmed the three principles of fatherland reunification proclaimed in the 4 July joint statement and expressed a firm will to prevent aggression and conflict by force of arms and ensure peace by bringing an end to the political and military confrontation, to promote interest and prosperity common to the nation by realizing cooperation and exchange in various fields, and to make joint efforts to achieve peaceful reunification.

At the talks, the North and the South shared the awareness that nuclear weapons should not exist on the Korean peninsula, agreed to hold delegates' contacts to discuss the nuclear issue, and announced this in a joint communique.

This success attained at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks contributes greatly to accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by bringing an end to the political and military confrontation between the North and the South which has continued for nearly half a century; to turning the North-South relations into relations of reconciliation and cooperation; and to ensuring peace and security in Asia and the world.

I warmly support and welcome the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South and the joint communique adopted at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks. I am firmly convinced that they represent, in view of their contents and significance, an epochal event that opened a bright prospect for providing a precondition for ensuring peace in the country and resolving the issue of reunification.

The adoption of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South, opening a way to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks, represents the brilliant fruition of the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the excellent result of the justness of the reasonable policy of our party and the government of the Republic for fatherland reunification and their consistent efforts for its realization.

As is well known, ever since the first day when our nation was divided between the North and the South, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and the lodestar of fatherland reunification, put forth the fatherland reunification as the foremost task of the nation. He proclaimed the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity for its realization, made important peace overtures whenever they were needed, and elucidated the grand principle as to how fatherland reunification ought to be achieved by means of a confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave great significance to

North-South high-level talks in particular, repeatedly put forth the most reasonable and realistic plans so that the talks might promote national reconciliation, promise nonaggression, and open a way to cooperation and exchange in conformity with the expectations and aspirations of all the nation, and exercised their leadership for its successful conclusion. Therefore, our side made all the sincere efforts for the success of the talks through the entire process of the talks, making broad-minded counterproposals, making concessions, and showing generosity from the serious position to open a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

In discussing the issues, our side solicited agreement clause by clause by persuasion using the national chuche-oriented, reunification-oriented, and peace-oriented positions, exhibiting patience and self-restraint from beginning to end, while the South side took an attitude of depending on outside forces, oriented toward division and war.

I acknowledge this agreement to be a monumental achievement for peace and peaceful reunification, achieved after spending one year and much energy on it. I think we should keep cultivating and adorning this monument to further ensure a bright future for reunification in the nineties.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his New Year's address for this year, has taught: We should not prolong the division of the country more than half a century but achieve the historic task of fatherland reunification within the next several years without fail.

The people in authority and all politicians in the North and the South have a duty to hold dear the first valuable step toward achieving peace and peaceful reunification and make special efforts to lead it to peace and reunification without fail. The important thing is that the North and the South should unite their strength and combine their will to take practical steps in implementing the agreement, so that all the clauses in the agreement can be put into practice truthfully and faithfully and in a timely manner. This will contribute to peace and reunification.

In this connection, the people at home and abroad hope that this will not be an ugly repetition of the event in the early 1970's, when the 4 July joint statement was published, when some forces of the South side branded it an unreliable blank sheet of paper and obstructed its implementation. We hope that the South authorities, in cooperation with us, will properly and sincerely fulfill the spirit of the agreement to which they have given a definite promise before the nation. We assert that they should show their sincerity beginning with the delegates' contact on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula to be held in Panmunjom in December.

[Dated] 16 December 1991, Pyongyang.

South Said To Lay Obstacles to Denuclearization

SK1912044091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0418 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Sinister Attempt To Lay Obstacle to Denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—South Korean "Prime Minister" Chong Won-sik in a "statement" Tuesday, according to reports, said that there can be no nonaggression and reconciliation between the North and the South without the "solution of the nuclear problem". Earlier, the spokesman of the "Defence Ministry" declared that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises scheduled from late January next year "will have to be staged as planned" in case the negotiation on the nuclear problem "makes no progress" at the contact between delegates at Panmunjom by the end of this year.

These remarks of the South Korean authorities fully disclose their sinister intention to lay an obstacle to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

How the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is settled does not depend on us who have neither the intention nor capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons, but on the United States which practically threatens us with a large amount of nuclear weapons and on those who are seeking to perpetuate division in reliance upon the U.S. nuclear weapons.

Yet they allege that the North is "responsible" for the "solution of the nuclear problem". This is an act reversing black and white. It cannot be overlooked that the South Korean authorities are trying to mislead public opinion at the threshold of the contact of delegates at Panmunjom.

It cannot be construed otherwise than an act of spoiling the atmosphere of the contact and seeking to create continuously distrust and antagonism within the nation, not reconciliation and unity.

Such insidious attempt to obstruct the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula gives rise to our apprehensions that it will lay a stumbling block in the way of the implementation of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South".

The South Korean authorities must ponder over the matter and refrain from an act of disappointing the fellow countrymen who are burning with the desire for reunification.

'Just Stand,' 'Sincere Effort' for Peace Lauded

SK1912102591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Brilliant Fruition of Sincere Efforts"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—It is a brilliant fruition of our just stand and consistent sincere effort for the peace and reunification of Korea that the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" could be adopted at the fifth North-South high-level talks in the interest of the nation, says an article of NODONG SINMUN today.

The author of the article notes: Both the North and South of Korea adopted and published the agreement vowing to jointly strive for the peaceful reunification of the country and the joint communique carrying the will to solve the nuclear problem by the nation's own efforts. This is an epochal event that opened a brilliant prospect for peace and reunification as this was the first and most precious success between the authorities of the North and the South since the publication of the July 4 joint statement.

Our party and government of the Republic have made all sincere efforts at the talks to achieve excellent fruition conforming to the desires of the fellow countrymen for peace and reunification by attaching great significance to the hard-won North-South high-level talks.

Above all, we have firmly maintained our stand since the very beginning of the high-level talks to remove the political and military confrontation between the North and South, solve the problem of multi-faceted cooperation and exchange, ease the tension on the Korean peninsula, remove the danger of war, promote national reconciliation and unity and open a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification of the country through the talks.

We have consistently called for solving the problem of removing the political and military confrontation, especially adoption of nonaggression declaration, by attaching primary and essential significance to this problem and stressed the simultaneous solution of the problem of multi-faceted cooperation and exchange.

At the talks we did not raise our proposals unilaterally but repeatedly put forward compromise proposals considering the contents of the South side's suggestions and magnanimously showed concession in many issues.

We will make all sincere efforts for peace of the country and the solution of the reunification question and actively strive to implement all the agreed points.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Pyongyang for Visit

SK1912105891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—A state delegation of Palestine led by Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, today arrived in Pyongyang by special plane for an official visit to Korea upon the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The streets of Pyongyang and the airport were festively decorated upon receiving President Yasir 'Arafat.

Thousands of citizens of Pyongyang turned out to the airport with flags of the two countries and bunches of flowers in their hands to welcome President Yasir 'Arafat coming to Korea for the fifth time.

Portraits of President Kim Il-song and President Yasir 'Arafat were set up at the airport.

Standing above the welcoming crowds were slogan boards reading "Warm welcome to the goodwill envoy of the Palestinian people!" and "Long live militant friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Korea and Palestine!"

Arriving with the president were the members of the delegation Samir Gush, member of the Executive Committee of the PLO; Hani al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) and advisor to the president in charge of political affairs; Imad Saqr, advisor to the president in charge of international affairs; 'Izzat Abu al-Rubb, member of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah; and the suite.

The guests were met at the airport by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-premier of the Administration Council; and other senier officials.

Mustafa al-Safarini, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Palestine to the DPRK, and his embassy officials and diplomatic envoys of different countries in Pyongyang were also present.

A Korean child and a child of the Palestinian Embassy in Pyongyang presented bouquets of flowers to President Yasir 'Arafat.

The president waved to the crowds who were cheering waving flags of the two countries and bunches of flowers, passing before them.

A large number of citizens of the capital warmly welcomed the goodwill envoy of the Palestinian people along the road.

Dailies 'Warmly' Welcome Visit

SK1912055391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0510 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Dailies Warmly Welcome Envoy of Palestinian People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Dailies here today come out with editorials warmly welcoming the official visit to the DPRK by the delegation of the State of Palestine led by Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Armed Forces, upon the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The editorial of NODONG SINMUN says:

The fifth visit to our country of Comrade Yasir 'Arafat will mark another important occasion in putting the Korea-Palestine friendship onto a new higher stage. It will be also an inspiration to our people who are striving to further consolidate and develop our socialism centred on the masses and bringing earlier the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Today the Palestinian people are struggling to compeletely retake the right to self-determination and other legitimate national rights under the guidance of the Palestine Liberation organization.

The proclamation of the State of Palestine with al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital on November 15, 1988 was a brilliant success won by the Palestinian people in their protracted struggle, which was a historical event of great significance in the development of the Palestinian revolutionary movement.

Since the proclamation of the state, the Palestinian people, with a firm belief in victory, have persistently waged a struggle to put an end to the occupation of the Israeli aggressors, retake the occupied territory and completely restore the legitimate national rights.

The struggle for the freedom and liberation of their homeland dealt a heavy blow at the Israeli aggressors.

At the Middle East Peace Conference, the representative of Palestine demands that Israel withdraw from the occupied Arab lands, stop construction of "Jewish settlements" and recognize the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

For its justness, their struggle enjoys full support and encouragement from the people throughout the world. The State of Palestine has established relations with many countries and has a legitimate seat as a member of world community.

The Korean people always stand firm on the side of the fighting Palestinian people and will positively support with might and main the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

The state and people of Palestine fully support reasonable and realistic proposals advanced by our party and the government of the republic for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

To cement and develop the friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Korea and Palestine not only conforms with the common desire and interests of the two peoples but also contributes to the world revolutionary people's cause of independence against imperialism.

The editorial of MINJU CHOSON expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Palestine will further strengthen and develop.

WPK Greets Japan's Social-Democratic Party

SK1912111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 58th national convention of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP].

The message noted that the Japan Social-Democratic Party has actively waged an anti-war, anti-nuclear and disarmarment movement for defending the vital rights and interests of the Japanese people and peace and security of Asia and world.

Pointing out that the JSDP has made much efforts to strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and two peoples and normalize diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan, it said: We highly appreciate this activity of the JSDP as a righteous one conforming to the desire and purpose of the peoples of Korea and Japan.

Expressing the belief that the excellent friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties will develop more favorably in the future, the message wished great success in the work of the convention and in the future activity of the party for implementing its decisions.

Koreans in Japan Support North-South Agreement

SK1912114391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1004 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo December 17 (KNS-KCNA)—So Man-sul, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), issued a statement to the press on December 17 hailing the adoption of "Agreement on

Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South".

He said that the adoption of the agreement at the fifth inter- Korean high-level talks was a shining fruition of the wise guidance of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a manifestation of the validity of the national reunification policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK and a result of persistent and sincere efforts exerted and broad magnanimity shown by the DPRK side for a success of the talks.

The adoption of the agreement between the North and the South this time, he said, made it possible for our nation to remove political and military confrontation and covert North-South relations into reconciliation and cooperation and thus create a precondition for accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The whole nation is unanimous in wishing that an agreement will be reached at an early date on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, too, and the content of the agreement will bear a good fruit, he said, adding:

In order to foster the spirit of reconciliation and unity created with so much efforts between the North and the South, such large- scale military exercises as "Team Spirit" must be discontinued and pro-reunification envoys including Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong who are now in prison after visiting the North for national reunification be set free without delay.

New Chemical Minister, Transportation Chairman

SK1912004291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[DPRK Central People's Committee decree dated 18 December signed by DPRK President Kim Il-song—read by announcer]

[Text] DPRK Central People's Committee decree on dismissal and appointment of some members of the DPRK Administration Council

The DPRK Central People's Committee decides to:

1. Dismiss Comrade Kim Hwan from the post of minister of chemical industry and to appoint Comrade Chu Kil-pon minister of chemical industry.

2. Dismiss Comrade Yi Kil-song from the post of chairman of the Transportation Committee and appoint Comrade Yi Yong-mu chairman the Transportation Committee.

DPRK President Kim Il-song

18 December 1991, Pyongyang

Meeting Views Local Trade Officials' Achievements

SK1912051691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—A national meeting of active local trade officials was held at the People's Palace of Culture over December 17-18.

Present there were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party [WPK] of Korea and premier of the Administration Council; Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State External Economy Commission; other officials concerned and local trade officials.

The meeting summed up the achievements and experiences gained in local trade under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea over the last 15 years and discussed the tasks to put this work on a new, higher stage in compliance with the requirements of the developing reality.

The great leader President Kim Il-song, basing himself on a comprehensive analysis of the matured demand for the economic development of our country and actual needs for the development of foreign trade at the end of 1976, indicated concrete ways of conducting multilateral and diversified foreign trade and took epochal measures to establish a local trade system.

The reporter and speakers said that the local trade system of our style established by the great leader is a superior trade system which makes it possible to develop the economy and further improve the people's living standard by bringing local creative ingenuity into full play under the centralized and planned guidance of the state.

The validity and vitality of the local trade system have been displayed in every way: The variety of exports of the local trade increased 5.6 times and their export value grew 40.5 percent on an annual average in the past 15 years, they noted, and added:

In order to further develop local trade, solid export production bases should be built, the level of technical equipment of the export production processes steadily raised and advanced technology be introduced to further improve the quality of goods.

A letter of pledge was adopted at the meeting.

Technical Shock-Brigades Overfulfill Assignments

SK1912050091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA)—The "April 15 technical innovation shock-brigades" across Korea have overfulfilled their yearly technical innovation assignments.

According to data available, more than 99,800 valuable proposals for technical innovation and rationalization have been applied to production this year, taking the country as a whole.

This helped save a large amount of materials, funds and manpower including more than 53,490 tons of steel, 379,700 tons of coal, 410,917 kwh of electricity, 33,300 tons of cement and 35,000 cubic metres of timber.

The "April 15 technical innovation shock-brigade" movement is a collective movement of technicians and producers for technical innovations and a massive movement to create new technologies by closely combining science and technology with production and thus rapidly developing them.

The "April 15 technical innovation shock-brigades" were organized in the early 1980's.

The shock-brigades organized in factories and enterprises comprise skilled workers and technicians.

KCNA Reviews 19 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1912060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il- song received a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and his entourage.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN are words of South Korean people praising President Kim Il-song as a great leader and a peerless great man.

The daily devotes nearly one whole page to an article dealing with deep solicitude shown by President Kim Il-song for Hwang Chung-op, an ordinary fisherman, bringing him up to be a leading official of fisheries.

Papers dedicate articles to the 30th anniversary of the publication of the historical work of President Kim Il-song "On Organizing the County Agricultural Cooperative Management Committee".

Printed in the press are a profile of Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, and an editorial welcoming the official visit to the DPRK of the delegation of the state of Palestine led by him upon the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article contributed by the editor-in-chief of the Ugandan paper THE STAR praising President Kim Il-song as an outstanding leader.

Appearing in the daily is a message of greetings sent by the C.C., WPK to the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Spain.

Thanks of the C.C., WPK was conveyed to officer of the Ministry of Public Security Sim Kyong-chun and his family who decided to leave the capital city and settle down in a local area and serve better for security affairs and people's conveniences in traffic, says the press.

Carried in the press is a telephone message sent by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, head of the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks, to South Korean "Prime Minister" Chong Won-sik, chief delegate of the South side's delegation, proposing to hold a contact of delegates to negotiate the denuclearization problem.

Papers give an account of a national meeting of active local trade officials.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN are statements released to the press by Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and So Man-sol, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), concerning the adoption of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" at the fifth round of inter-Korean high-level talks and an article and world public voices warmly supporting it.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that SONGKYON TIMES published by the Songkyonkwan University introduced advantages of the socialist system of Korean style and a large-size anti-U.S. wall painting "Day of Decisive Battle" made its appearance at Seoul National University.

Papers inform the readers that the South Korean KYONGHYANG DAILY NEWS carried a letter to old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's army, from his wife and daughter.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities committed military exercises and espionage against the northern half of Korea, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comments on the shameless sophistry of the United States refusing to withdraw its troops from South Korea.

Printed in the international news column of the daily are reports that Comrade Fidel Castro declared that the Cuban revolution is ever-victorious, a new constitution was adopted in Romania, Nigeria declared Abuja her

capital and the 19th Conference of the Federation of Arab News Agencies was held.

Dailies introduce the intensified struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel.

"Growing U.S. Nuclear Threat to Mankind" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

South Korea

President No Tae-u Replaces 7 Cabinet Ministers

SK1912062191 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0557 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By reporter Hong Song-kyu from Chongwadae (presidential office)—live]

[Text] President No Tae-u undertook a cabinet reshuffle replacing seven ministers a little while ago.

Choe Se-chang, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was appointed as minister of national defense; Yi Su-chong, spokesman for Chongwadae, as minister of culture; Yi Chin-sam, former army chief of staff, as minister of sports and youth; Han Pong-su, former president of Korea Power Corporation, as minister of trade and industry; So Yong-taek, commissioner of the National Tax Administration, as minister of construction; Yi Sang-pae, former senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs, as minister of government administration; and (Kim Kap-hyon), president of the Korean YWCA Federation, as second state minister of political affairs.

Reshuffle 'Preparation' for Elections

SK1912072791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u replaced seven cabinet ministers Thursday—defense, culture, sports and youth, trade and industry, construction, government administration and second state for political affairs.

Choe Sae-chang, a former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, replaced Yi Chong-ku as defense minister, and Yi Chin-sam, a former army chief of staff, is the new sports and youth minister, taking the place of Pak Chol-on.

Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chong was named culture minister, in place of Yi O-yong.

Han Pong-su, a former president of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp., was appointed trade and industry minister, while So Yong-taek, chief of the office of National Tax Administration, was named construction minister.

The new government administration minister is Yi Sang-pae, who once served as senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs.

YWCA president Kim Kap-hyon was named second state minister for political affairs.

Kim Hak-chun, presidential adviser for policy research, is the new presidential spokesman.

No upgraded the post of presidential adviser for diplomacy and national security to the rank of minister and he named Kim Chong-hui the chief presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security.

Outgoing Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-Chong said Thursday's reshuffle was in preparation for general elections in the spring and for effective handling of state affairs during the critical time ahead.

"President No has decided that the most urgent work is economic recovery, and therefore he must have a consistent policy," Yi said in explaining the unexpectedly minor changes in economic portfolios.

"Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu will not run in next year's election but stay with his economic team," Yi said.

No will give out appointment credentials on Friday.

New Ministers, Aides Profiled

SK1912120591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—Following are the profiles of newly appointed cabinet ministers and presidential aides:

—Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang, 57, is an experienced commander of field operations and has held a series of senior military posts.

A native of Taegu, northern Kyongsang Province, he graduated in the 13th class of the Korea Military Academy. He was one of the first Korean military officers to study guerrilla and special warfare training in the United States and helped set up the special warfare command.

His final military post was chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. After retirement, he became president of the Korea Mining Promotion Corp.

—Yi Su-chong, 51, the culture minister, is a former journalist.

Born in Taegu, North Kyongsang Province, he graduated from Seoul National University's political science department.

He worked for the HANGUK ILBO until joining the Culture and Information Ministry in 1972. He moved to the presidential office in 1980 and left temporarily to serve as executive director of Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. in 1984.

His time as presidential spokesman of three years and 10 months is a record.

—Sports and Youth Minister Yi Chin-sam spent his 35-year military career in field operations.

The 55-year-old native of Puyo, South Chungchong Province, is a member of the Korea Military Academy's 15th class. He earned recognition for discovering the fourth tunnel built by North Korea to attack the South.

He was appointed army chief of staff in 1990 and replaced Nov. 29.

—Han Pong-su, trade and industry minister, has an eclectic background in government. A graduate of Seoul National University's law department, he was born in Siheung, Kyonggi Province.

The 63-year-old Han has served as a presidential aide for economic affairs, assistant minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and director-general of the prime minister's office planning and coordination. He was the first chairman of the Fair Trade Commission.

—Construction Minister So Yong-taek, 52, is a native of Taegu. He graduated from Seoul National University's College of Business Administration and studied at Harvard University.

He started his career in government as a section chief at the Chonan tax office in 1966. He later served as the Finance Ministry's director-general for tax system and head of the national tax tribunal.

He was assistant finance minister from 1985 to 1988, when he was named chief of the Office of National Tax Administration.

—Government Administration Minister Yi Sang-pae, 52, is a native of Sangju, North Kyongsang Province. He graduated from Seoul National University's College of Law and entered government service in 1961 by passing the state test for officials.

He was chief administrator of Ulchin County and mayor of Andong City. From 1973 to 1980 he held various posts in the Home Affairs Ministry. He contributed greatly to enhancing the Saemaul Undong (New Community Movement) while an aide to President Chon Tu-hwan from mid-1980 to January 1983.

He later became vice home minister and senior presidential secretary for administration, during which time was the target of gossip concerning the Suso housing district scandal.

—Second State Minister for Political Affairs Kim Kap-hyon, 59, is a native of Kimhae, South Kyongsang Province, and graduated from Seoul National University's College of Law.

She was head of Yushin Express Tourism Co., and on the boards of the Women's Aviation Association, the Yushin Educational Foundation and the Yurim Social Education Center before becoming president of the Korea national YWCA.

—Kim Chong-hui, 56, chief presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security, is a Seoul native. He graduated from Bates College in the United States and earned a higher degree from Columbia University in 1960.

He was a professor at the National Defense College in 1965-88 and then chief of the Institute of National Security Affairs.

Kim has been presidential adviser for diplomatic affairs and national security and a delegate to the inter-Korean premiers' talks.

—Kim Hak-chun, 48, chief presidential secretary for public information, is a native of Inchon, he has a degree in politics from Seoul National University and earned doctorate in political science at Pittsburgh University in 1972.

He worked for the CHOSON ILBO as reporter in 1965-68, and was a professor at Seoul National University.

Kim, formerly a member of the 12th-term National Assembly, was presidential adviser for policy research until recently.

National Assembly Closes Three-Month Session

SK1912003291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Dec 91 pp 2, 5

[Choe Sang-hun]

[Text] The 13th National Assembly yesterday closed its last three-month regular session, which was marred to its last day by bitter interparty squabbles over several controversial bills.

Ruling Democratic Liberals [Democratic Liberal Party—DLP] rammed through three contentious bills amid angry protest from opposition lawmakers.

The opposition Democratic Party [DP] had demanded a special session in January to act on those bills, but the ruling party rejected the bid, saying that there would be no more parliamentary sessions until the legislative term expires late next May. The nation goes to the polls around March to elect a new legislature.

The Democratic Liberals, fending off the strong resistance of DP lawmakers, formed a cordon around National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu in an aisle of the Assembly main hall. The speaker's rostrum was occupied by opposition lawmakers.

As Pak, using a wireless microphone, announced the bills passed around 11:47 last night, all hell broke loose. The main hall was engulfed in harsh catcalls; rival lawmakers huffily called each other names.

In a desperate effort to block Pak from announcing the passage which took only 20 seconds, some angry opposition legislators tried in vain to bust the human barricade around the speaker.

Outside of the legislative building, opposition lawmakers blocked the car of Pak from leaving for a while.

The whole fracas allowed the voters via television to once again witness the "Great Parliamentary Circus."

The melee, despite all its dramatic effects, had been long expected and, according to many observers, largely staged.

With the next general elections drawing near, the Democratic Liberals seemed desperate to perform their loyalty to faction leaders and President No. They were also apparently seeking sympathy from their voters for enduring such disgraceful manners of the opposition.

With as much eager, opposition lawmakers were in search of a chance to impress their constituents, especially farmers, critics said. They appeared to show that they had vigorously fought the "bad" bills to the end in the interests of the masses.

Earlier in the day, hectic rounds of negotiations between the rival parties had failed to reach an agreement over the disputed bills including those on rice and Cheju Island.

Confrontation was the sharpest over how much of this year's rice harvest the government should buy from farmers and at what price.

The DLP backed the government-proposed plan to buy 8.5 million sok (43.52 million bushels) of rice at a price 7 percent higher than last year's. The opposition DP proposed at the last moment that if the ruling party accepted an additional purchase of 1 million sok, it wouldn't oppose the DLP attempt to railroad other controversial bills.

Ruling party negotiators didn't budge. "As far as rice is concerned, there is no room for compromise. Rather, we will seek the public verdict (during the elections next year) on what we have done with those bills," DLP floor leader Yi Cha-hon told his opposition counterpart Kim Chong-kil in a meeting yesterday morning.

Assembly Speaker Pak, who arranged the meeting, said the ruling party needed to turn its eyes away from farmers and think of consumers, low-income urbanites. Pak is also a ruling party member.

Earlier, the DLP convened an executive committee meeting and concluded that it would pass the disputed bills "under the principles of parliamentarianism," which meant that it would try to force those bills through in case the rival parties reached no agreement.

The ruling party, which holds 214 of the 229 legislative seats, controls the Assembly.

In a desperate attempt to prevent the legislative from going into a full session yesterday afternoon, opposition lawmakers blocked the doors of the Assembly speaker's and vice-speaker's offices. There were also opposition legislators posted in the Assembly's main hall and around the speaker's rostrum.

The controversial bills include one regarding the development of the southern resort island of Cheju.

The DLP modified some of the bill's provisions that the opposition denounced as "too loose on environmental issues." But the opposition stuck to its demand that the bill be enacted after a new governor of Cheju Island is elected by popular balloting. The nation may go to the polls sometime in the first half of next year to elect local administrative chiefs for the first time in 30 years.

The opposition and local groups on the resort island bitterly protested the bill, saying that it would allow "alien" land owners to go on a development rampage.

The ruling party and the government have said that the bill is necessary to develop the island into a world-class tourist destination.

Inter-Korean Accord Resolution Aborted

SK1812235591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] The ruling party's plan to secure a parliamentary resolution supporting the recent inter-Korean accord on reconciliation and nonaggression proved abortive for the time being.

The opposition Democratic Party [DP], in no mood for compromise in the wake of the failed negotiations over controversial bills, gave the cold shoulder to the ruling party's plan to have the resolution adopted yesterday.

DP lawmakers demanded a special parliamentary session in January to deliberate and approve the bill. Ruling Democratic Liberals wanted the legislature to adopt the resolution before its last regular session ended yesterday.

The ruling party argued that the accord is not subject to legislative ratification since it is not an international treaty between nations. Seoul has not officially recognized the existence of North Korea.

Opposition lawmakers countered that the accord, which has paramount ramifications on the future of the nation, should be fully discussed and approved in the National Assembly.

For the ruling party and the government, such a resolution would be important symbolically at a time when controversy grows over the gains and losses of the accord. The accord left out the important nuclear issue.

The opposition DP, which had been left out in the cold in the inter-Korean premiers' talks, charged that the ruling party was conspiring to turn the accord into partisan gains in domestic politics.

DP spokesman No Mu-hyon, however, said that his party does not oppose the accord itself.

Speaker Resigns Over Bills

SK1912030991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu resigned Thursday, accepting responsibility for railroading controversial bills through the National Assembly on the last day of its plenary session.

"I am sorry to the people, as National Assembly speaker, that the Assembly session ended in abnormalcy on Wednesday," Pak said in a statement.

Pak said he hoped his resignation would make people reflect on Wednesday's incident and advance parliamentary democracy.

Pak said he lacked the ability to make parliamentary democracy take root in Korea.

His resignation was submitted to Yi Cha-hon, chairman of the Assembly Steering Committee, by Pak's chief secretary, Ku Chang-nim.

The speaker had his glasses broken by aides to opposition lawmakers Wednesday night after he passed three bills, including the rice purchasing bill, in a 10-second blitz.

Forestry Official Named Railroad Administrator

SK1912061691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—Forestry Administrator Choe Pyong-uk was named national railroad administrator on Thursday.

Choe replaces Sin Yong-kuk, who was fired Thursday because of frequent train accidents in Seoul and its vicinity.

Yu Chong-taek, deputy secretary-general of administration at the National Assembly, was appointed to succeed Choe, 54, a native of Namhae, South Kyongsang Province.

Choe, a graduate (16th class) of the Korea Military Academy, has served as chief of staff for personnel affairs, Corps commander and Defense Security Commander.

Yu, 54, was born in Andong, North Kyongsang Province. A graduate of Seoul National University's Diplomacy Department, he has served as assistant agriculture, fisheries and forestry minister and as vice minister of the same ministry.

North Reported Producing Weapons-Grade Plutonium

SK1912023291 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Report by Choe Pyong-chan]

[Text] Analysis of satellite pictures and military intelligence show that North Korea has nuclear power research institutes in Yongbyon and Pakchon and is operating a 50-megawatt-class research nuclear reactor in Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province, after recently completing its construction. The North Korea is also expediting the construction of a third nuclear reactor and a reprocessing facility in Yongbyon.

The reprocessing facility is problematic. Plutonium is extracted by reprocessing the nuclear fuel which was burned for about three years in nuclear reactors. The atomic bomb dropped on Japan's Nagasaki was manufactured with plutonium.

If North Korea has a nuclear reprocessing facility, it will be able to extract seven to eight kg of plutonium a year from it. North Korea will also be able to extract 60 kg of plutonium a year from the third, a 50 to 200 megawatt-class nuclear reactor. This means that North Korea will be able to build approximately 10 atomic bombs a year.

[Begin (Choba), chairman of the International Security Committee of the United States, recording in English with Korean subtitles] Weapons-grade quantities of plutonium have already been produced in the second operating reactor. A third reactor which is to begin operations sometime within this year will significantly increase the quantity of plutonium available to North Korea. [end recording]

Military experts believe North Korea will begin to produce plutonium by next year at the earliest.

North Korea possesses Scud missiles with a range of 1,100 km and that can be equipped with nuclear warheads. So, if North Korea builds atomic bombs, both the ROK and Japan will be affected by North Korea's nuclear weapons.

Seoul Takes Last Steps To 'Discourage' Pyongyang

SK1812130791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1017 GMT 18 Dec 91

[News analysis by Yi Tong-min: "Seoul Takes Last Step To Discourage Pyongyang's Nuclear Plan"]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea turned the last stone Wednesday to remove North Korean excuses for developing nuclear arms by announcing absence of nuclear weapons on its soil.

"As I speak, there do not exist any nuclear weapons whatsoever, anywhere in the Republic of Korea," President No Tae-u said in a nationally televised special announcement.

No's statement is a message to North Korea that U.S. nuclear deployment in South Korea has been completely removed. It answers to North Korea's demands that South Korea formally notify it of American nuclear withdrawal.

The announcement comes just days before South and North Korea are to meet to settle nuclear issues at working-level contacts as promised at last week's fifth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

The two sides are expected to meet at the truce village of Panmunjom sometime next week, and expectations are high that North Korea, on that day or soon afterwards, will declare it is signing a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Only one last North Korean demand remains—formal notification from the U.S. side that American nuclear pullout from South Korea is complete.

This, too, is likely to be answered soon.

"Seoul and Washington are negotiating on U.S. notification to North Korea. The decision is up to Washington, and there may be technical problems because of its neither-confirm-nor-deny policy on overseas nuclear deployment," one government official said in a background briefing.

"A high possibility is that the U.S. State Department will in one form or another confirm the pullout when the question is raised at a regular press conference," the official said.

Wednesday's announcement is the final step in the government's carefully-mapped plan in removing all of North Korean excuse in not signing a nuclear safeguards accord and accepting outside inspection of its nuclear facilities.

No on Nov. 8 made a declaration of non-nuclear Korean peninsula peace initiatives pledging not to manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons, a message to North Korea that U.S. deployment will be removed.

At last week's inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, Seoul proposed simultaneous trial inspections on any military or civilian facilities designated by the other side, an idea first offered by North Korea. Seoul said the inspection can include U.S. bases in the South where American nuclear weapons are believed to be stored.

These moves aimed at proving to North Korea removal of U.S. nuclear arms from the South Korean territory.

North Korea demanded at the prime ministers' talks that South Korea and the United States formally notify it of completed withdrawal before it signs a nuclear safeguards accord.

South Korea has made this "formal notification" through No's announcement Wednesday and the United States, according to some diplomatic sources, is about to take a similar action.

"Since the Republic of Korea is now completely nuclear-free and since we have agreed to the simultaneous nuclear inspections proposal, there is no reason or excuse for North Korea to develop nuclear weapons or refuse nuclear inspection," No said, pegging the message to Pyongyang.

"South Korea now has done everything it can on its part to solve the inter-Korean nuclear problem. All the balls are in the North Korean court," the government official said.

Participants in last week's prime ministers' talks say North Korea gave "strong" indications it will sign the safeguards accord. It is apparently no coincidence that No made his announcement just before the Panmunjom talks to hammer down the final peg.

"I believe that the North Korean authorities are well aware of the central issues," No stated, "I would expect that North Korea will bring to the forthcoming Panmunjom conference measures that will satisfy the legitimate demands of the Korean people and the international community."

Officials here say that they are prepared to take the issue to the IAEA Board of Governors and the United Nations if North Korea still refuses outside inspection.

"We are adhering to our 'three-track approach'—inter-Korean approach, negotiations at international stage and cooperation with allies at bilateral levels. We will continue this approach until North Korea abandons its nuclear arms development," another government official said.

No's announcement does not solve all problems. Pyongyang may sign the safeguards accord but is still mute about abandoning nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, Seoul's foremost demands.

The IAEA safeguards accord does not specify reprocessing or enrichment facilities under mandatory inspection.

Officials here say the top aim is getting North Korea to sign the safeguards accord and accepting international inspection. Talks on reprocessing plants and adopting a joint declaration for nuclear-free Korea can come after then if necessary, they say.

Joint-Philippines Resource Committee Meets

SK1712025991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] The first round of the Korea-Philippines Resources Cooperation Committee meeting was held at the Ministry of Energy and Resources in Kwachon, Kyonggi-to, yesterday.

At the eighth annual talks, Han Chun-ho, chief of the Resources Development Bureau, represents an eight-member Korean delegation. The four-member Philippine side is headed by Salvador D. Martin, assistant director of the Environment and Resources Department.

"The two countries have discussed various ways to promote trade of mining goods and exchange of technology and information related to other resources," a senior ministry official said.

"In particular, both sides agreed to actively participate in joint venture projects for the development of the rich mining resources in the Philippines," he said.

In 1990, Korea imported $19 million worth of mined products, chiefly copper and chromic ore, from the Philippines, while exporting $2.6 million worth of talc and gold.

Meanwhile, two Korean enterprises—Pyongsan and Hanbi—are conducting a feasibility study for the development of copper and chrome mining in the Philippines.

Since July 1983, Korea and the Philippines have held an annual resources development meeting in Manila and Seoul, alternately, to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

Burma

Commission Revokes Status of Five NLD Officials

BK1912102191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 986 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar, 18 December 1991]

[Text] Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of five persons who infringed on Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Elections Law.

1. The following persons elected as People's Assembly representatives from the National League for Democracy [NLD] during the elections held on 27 May 1990 have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Kyaw Thwin, 12/Khayana-naing006259, Kayan Township constituency-1, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Article 122-1 of the Criminal Procedures Code.

B. U Khin Maung Swe, 12/Kakhana-naing020275, Sanchaung Township constituency, Yangon Division—Article 122-1 of the Criminal Procedures Code.

C. U Khin Maung Thein, 5/Kha-a-na-naing001795, Kinu Township constituency-1, Sagaing Division—Article 122-1 of the Criminal Procedures Code.

D. Daw Khin San Hlaing, WLD116647, Wetlet Township constituency- 2, Sagaing Division—Article 122-1 of the Criminal Procedures Code.

E. U Chit Tin, 8/Makana-naing014277, Minhla Township constituency, Magwe Division—Article 122-1 of the Criminal Procedures Code.

2. Hence, the persons mentioned above are found to have infringed on Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Law and they no longer have the right to remain as elected representatives of the People's Assembly. It is hereby declared that their status as elected representatives of the People's Assembly has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembnly Election Law, the five persons mentioned above shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.

By the authority vested in me.

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Border Talks With Laos Concluded in Rangoon

BK1812143891 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The second meeting of the Myanmar [Burma]-Lao Joint Border Committee for Demarcating Mekong River was held yesterday and today at the Foreign Ministry Annex in Yangon [Rangoon].

U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, acted as leader of the Myanmar delegation at the talks while Mr. Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister of Laos, acted as leader of the Lao delegation.

Members of the two delegations held the discussions in a cordial atmosphere and the meeting ended successfully this afternoon.

The leaders of the two delegations signed the record of the meeting resolution.

Japanese Official Visits Election Commission

BK1812143091 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] A Japanese delegation led by Mr. Kunihiko Saito, deputy foreign minister, called on U Ba Htay, chairman of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections and commission members—U Saw Kyar Doe, U San Maung, Saya Chai, and U Kyaw Nyunt—at 1015 today at the office of the commission.

Present at the meeting was the commission secretary, U Aye Maung. During the meeting frank and cordial discussions were held on the work carried out by the commission since the holding of the elections and bilateral friendship.

Five Kachin Insurgents Surrender 7 Dec

BK1912105191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] More members of various insurgent organizations have been surrendering with weapons and ammunition to the various military garrisons, giving up their policy of armed struggle after realizing their wrongdoings.

At 0830 on 7 December Privates Saw Tun Lay, Maung Naing, Maung Ni, Win Aung, and Myo Tint from the 2d Company of the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] 3d Battalion surrendered along with two BA-64 assault rifles, three M-21 assault rifles, 140 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 325 rounds of M-21 ammunition, and one Chinese-made hand grenade, at Sihkangyi garrison.

The surrendered insurgents were warmly welcomed by authorities from the Sihkangyi garrison.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Discusses Efforts of National Police

BK1912061691 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon—Malaysians should be grateful to the security forces, especially the police, for maintaining peace in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

He said the country was very fortunate as there were no riots and the situation was peaceful.

"We sometimes forget the benefits of living in a peaceful country. If we observe some other countries, we will find that their citizens live in fear and cannot move about freely, facing danger in the streets and in their own homes.

"But here we have a police force that is responsible and which carries out its duties well."

Dr. Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, was speaking at the 1991 Police Day Awards at the Putra World Trade Center today.

Also present were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub, and Deputy Education Minister Dr. Leo Michal Toyad.

Dr. Mahathir added "The police have long been involved in the defense of the country although this is normally the duty of the army.

"But because the threat to security had come from inside the country, the police had to play a para-military role.

"And they did it so well that we have no more threats from communist terrorits who laid down their arms two years ago."

Dr. Mahathir also said that while Malaysian police were armed, they did not use their weapons indiscriminately.

In dispersing demonstrators and rioters, for example, they used tear gas and canes but not batons so that no permanent injury would be inflicted.

In contrast, the police in Israel were ready to shoot unarmed demonstrators even if they only attacked them with stones, he said.

Dr. Mahathir also said that while accusations had been made against the police for not carrying out their duties as they should, those guilty were small in number.

Singapore

Indonesian Economist Opposes Growth Strategy

BK1912095891 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Dec 91 p 40

[By Tan Sung]

[Text] Singapore must redefine its strategy for marketing the Growth Triangle concept because it is not going down well with many Malaysians and Indonesians who see the Republic as condescending and arrogant, an Indonesian economist said yesterday.

Dr Mari Pangestu, Head of the Economics Department in Jakarta's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the Republic should stop selling itself as the "high value-added centre" of the Triangle and portraying Johor and Batam as inferior economies that can only absorb labour-intensive industries.

"The economic realities in the Triangle are enough to see to the distribution of labour in the three areas," she said. "There is no need for Singapore to promote it as a stratgegy to attract investors."

Dr Pangestu said this in an interview after the launch of a book, called Growth Triangle: The Johor-Singapore-Riau Experience, at the Institute of South-east Asian Studies.

She is one of five economists from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia who contributed to the book, which contains analyses of the economic grouping from the perspectives of the Triangle's three partners.

In a panel discussion at the launch, Dr Pangestu gave the Indonesian and Malaysian perspectives.

In addition to the need for greater sensitivity to guard against projecting Indonesia and Malaysia as "poor cousins", she said the Triangle concept could be made "even more palatable" by defusing the perception that Singapore is its "command centre".

A solution, she said, is a trilateral agreement among the three to project equal partnership. Alternatively, there could be "three bilateral arrangements, including one between Johor and Riau".

She noted that these arrangements were missing. Instead there are only two bilateral arrangements—between Singapore and Riau, and Johor respectively.

"In a Triangle arrangement, there must be a certain level of political commitment from all three countries. The present situation gives rise to the perception that Singapore is controlling it all," she said.

Dr Pangestu also highlighted Singapore's special relations with Johor as the biggest stumbling block to the success of the economic grouping.

She said politics between the Malaysian central and state governments was "very competitive" and unless Singapore "downplayed its overtures" directly to the state government of Johor, there was the possibility of the central government withdrawing its support for the grouping.

In the panel discussion, Professor Tommy Koh, director of the Institute of Policy Studies, described Dr Pangestu's perspective as "overly pessimistic".

He said he had just returned with a visiting group of 24 top Singapore businessmen, and had received strong assurances from Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that his government welcomed Singaporean investments and the Growth Triangle arrangement.

"I have been assured that as long as there is mutuality of benefits, Malaysia will not nitpick as to which partner benefits more from the arrangement," he said.

Prof Koh, who is also Singapore's Ambassador-at-large, said he felt that there is "a tremendous sense of self-assurance in Malaysia of its own economic future".

"They do not see themselves as inferior to Singapore at all but as an eventual competitor playing a complementary role," he said.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Pledge To Fully Implement Accord Upheld

BK1912043591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Cambodian People Support Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's Statement Saying That He and the Cambodian Supreme National Council Are Resolved To Implement the Cambodian Peace Accord 100 Percent"]

[Text] At a meeting with Mr. Charles Twining, U.S. ambassador to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and SNC chairman, asked the United States and the U.S. Senate not to worry too much about the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] exploiting the peace agreement on Cambodia to return to power alone. The samdech added that he himself and the SNC were resolved to implement the peace accord in Cambodia 100 percent but not 80 or 90 percent.

This shows the sincerity of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—who constantly upholds the policy of great national union, national reconciliation, and compromise without discrimination against any political persuasions—in the implementation of the peace accord for ending the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia with absolute correctness within the SNC framework. The samdech neither needs to discard nor keep anyone. This is aimed at allowing the Cambodian nation and people to enjoy independence, peace, and happiness and the Cambodian populace to earn a living as they wish.

Our entire people everywhere throughout the country and overseas wish to solemnly declare that they totally and unreservedly agree with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's statement. Our people are determined to cooperate in pursuing all activities under the great national union banner to completely do away with all manner of stratagems from all near and distant enemies and to jointly, effectively, correctly, and meticulously implement the peace accord in Cambodia within the framework of the SNC chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia.

First SNC Meeting in Phnom Penh Set for 21 Dec

BK1912021191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] On 17 December, after the arrival of the first team of the party of Democratic Kampuchea in Phnom Penh, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—immediately convened a meeting of the SNC Secretariat with the participation of the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in Phnom Penh and Mr. Ataul Karim, representative of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

At the meeting, the samdech said in his capacity as the chairman of the SNC secretariat he would convene the SNC secretariat meeting every week on Tuesday. Besides, the samdech also pointed out that the meeting of the plenipotentiary SNC, the five major powers, and UNTAC should be held every Friday as well.

On the upcoming SNC meeting in Phnom Penh, the samdech decided that the SNC, the five major powers, and UNTAC should meet on Saturday, 21 December shortly after the return of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC.

Khieu Samphan, Son Sen To Return

BK1912010191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The first team of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] already arrived in Phnom Penh.

I. The first eight-member team of the PDK arrived in Phnom Penh on 17 December 1991. The PDK went to Phnom Penh in November 1991 in compliance with the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, the Phatthaya document, and the Paris 25 October 1991 document. The PDK returned to Phnom Penh in November 1991 to join the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the State of cambodia. This is to allow the SNC to start its normal and permanent function at its headquarters in the capital city;

II. Nonetheless, the cruel 27 November attack on the residence and Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the SNC from the PDK, forced the PDK to leave Phnom Penh;

III. At a meeting in the Thai city of Phatthaya on 3 December, the plenipotentiary SNC as well as the Paris conference cochairmen and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council decided that all parties have to strive to implement the Paris accord and to guarantee security and safety for the PDK. They also decided to allow Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen from the PDK to stay at the SNC headquarters. The

PDK then sent its first team to Phnom Penh on 17 December 1991. The team is composed of the following:

1. His Excellency [H.E.] Chan Youran, senior ambassador to Beijing, China;

2. H.E. Mak Ben, ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, PDK representative to the SNC secretariat, and former ambassador to Belgrade, Yugoslavia;

3. (Tep Khunnan), Cambodia's ambassador to the United Nations in New York, and five other assistants;

IV. It is reported that Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen—leaders of the PDK and members of the SNC—with a spirit to strive to promote and speed up the correct implementation of the Paris accord, will return to Phnom Penh on 21 December to join and work within the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the State of Cambodia. This is to concretely end the Vietnamese war of aggression, thereby allowing Cambodia to quickly recover peace within its independence and the Cambodian people to earn a living in safety.

SRV, PRC Foreign Ministers To Visit

BK1812170291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 18 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Vietnam and China will visit here next week, throwing their weight behind Cambodia's peace process, officials said Wednesday.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk is meanwhile aiming to convene the Supreme National Council (SNC) here for the first time on Saturday, a well-informed source said.

A Cambodian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Vietnam's Nguyen Manh Cam would visit on December 23-26 followed by Qian Qichen on December 27-29.

Beijing and Hanoi supported different sides in the 12-year civil war in Cambodia, which came after Vietnam installed the current government in January 1979, driving the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge into the resistance.

The October 23 Cambodian peace treaty cleared the way for normalization of relations between the two regional powers two weeks later.

Cam and Qichen both postponed their scheduled visits to Phnom Penh after a November 27 mob attack on Khieu Samphan sent the Khmer Rouge fleeing back to Bangkok just hours after their leader arrived.

Their date of their planned return to Phnom Penh has been kept secret out of concern for their safety, but an informed source said the Khmer Rouge would return in time for a meeting Saturday of the SNC.

The peace accord calls for the SNC, which groups leaders of the four warring factions, to meet here under Prince Sihanouk's chairmanship to represent Cambodian sovereignty until the United Nations can organize elections in 1993.

Khieu Samphan was head of state during the radical Marxist faction's genocidal 1975-1979 rule over Cambodia.

A party of Khmer Rouge officials returned here Tuesday allowing the six-member SNC Secretariat to meet for the first time in Phnom Penh.

Sok An, spokesman for the three Phnom Penh government representatives, said the Secretariat decided to meet each Tuesday while the full SNC would meet each Friday.

"This week is exceptional," he said, when asked if the SNC would meet on Friday.

SNC, UNTAC Must Run 5 Ministries Jointly

BK1912032491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Paris Accord Can Only Be Effectively and Correctly Implemented If the SNC and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia Join Hands To Work Constantly"]

[Text] The Paris 23 October 1991 accord clearly stipulates that the accord should be executed by two transitional authorites, namely the Supreme National Council, or SNC, chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC.

Annex 1 of the Paris accord specifies that the two transitional authorities—SNC and UNTAC—should cooperate to correctly implement the Paris accord in the sectors of military, security or police, foreign affairs, finance, and information. As such, from the start of the accord implementation, the four SNC parties should be responsible for those sectors in conjunction with UNTAC. Only by doing so, can the Paris accord—which explicitly defines that the two transitional authorities in Cambodia must jointly execute the Paris 23 October 1991 accord during the transitional period—be effectively implemented. Therefore, the Paris accord can only be effectively and correctly implemented if SNC and UNTAC join hands to execute it. It is neither the duty of the four-party SNC nor UNTAC alone.

Son Sann Wants Ministries To Start Functioning

BK1912022391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Lately, His Excellency Son Sann—former prime minister, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—has proposed starting the function of

the five ministries defined in the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. The five ministries are: Defense Ministry, Security or Police Ministry, Finance Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Information Ministry.

The Paris accord stipulates that the five ministries shall be run by the SNC in conjunction with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia during the transitional period, meaning from the beginning of the accord implementation until the completion of elections and a new National Assembly and government are established.

It has been reported that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the State of Cambodia and SNC chairman; and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, president of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, and SNC member, have agreed with His Excellency Son Sann's proposal while the Phnom Penh side has objected to it.

KPNLF's Ieng Mouli Views Paris Peace Plan

BK1812135391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Unidentified station correspondent's interview with Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a representative of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK] radio. Greetings to Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the KPNLF and SNC member.

First of all, I would like to thank you for allowing me to interview you for my compatriots listeners in Cambodia. These are the questions.

What are your views on the Cambodian political situation since the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia?

[Ieng Mouli] First, I would like to thank VOK for raising this issue. I will now have the opportunity to tell the clergy and compatriots about our country's political situation. His Excellency [H.E.] President Son Sann has spoken about this so I do not have to elaborate. I will only talk about some points, particularly on the agreement's implementation, which we signed at the Paris conference on 23 October 1991.

There are two institutions taking part in the implementation of the peace agreement in our country. The first one is the SNC which comprises all four Cambodian parties. We have set up a secretariat in the SNC, whose job is to implement all tasks decided by the SNC.

The second is the United Nations called UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. UNTAC's task is to take part in administrating our country during the transition. They will create a neutral atmosphere to enable our people to exercise their right and freedom in choosing leaders and a political regime through the elections.

At the moment, the SNC is not complete. This has hindered the implementation of the agreement. We hope all its members will cooperate and work together in Phnom Penh. Furthermore, due to UN procedures dealing with the dispatch of UN troops for operations in other countries, the UNTAC presence is not yet sufficient. Each operation requires a lot of things, including a budget and material. We have heard now, however, that UNTAC will hopefully be in our country by February.

The UN is already present with the UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] forces comprising nearly 300 members. Their mission is to expedite relations among the various sides and to supervise the cease-fire, which our Cambodian parties have agreed to abide by since May 1991.

As not all SNC members are in Phnom Penh and the UNTAC remains incomplete, the implementation of the agreement has been somewhat delayed. Respect for this agreement depends on each Cambodian faction's goodwill. If a party wants or has the goodwill to abide by the agreement to bring peace to our nation and people, it will start by acknowledging the people's rights and freedom, stated at least in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. These rights allow our people to have the freedom to travel, to speak, express opinions, believe in religion, set up associations and political parties, and the freedom to oppose and object against the government. However, a party that continues to use an administrative system that does not recognize the people's rights and freedom violates the agreement that everyone has signed.

There are a number of incidents which, in my view, our KPNLF should speak about for the benefit of our nation and people, so that the people will understand our position and the recent political events. As our clergy and compatriots know, over the past few weeks, some political parties have been active in forming alliances, with plans to set up a coalition government. Those parties are free to do that. We have no right to ban this.

However, if we look at the agreement and if we abide by it, the agreement talks only about the SNC as the sole legitimate organization recognized by the entire world to preserve our national sovereignty. It is the source of Cambodia's unification and state authority during the transitional period pending the elections. While there are no elections, there is no legitimate government apart from the SNC. Furthermore, if the agreement is strictly adhered to, one can see that all four Cambodian parties have the duty to cooperate to implement the agreement thoroughly.

In this sense, since 23 October 1991, we do not have a government which is recognized by the United Nations apart from the SNC. The relations of our KPNLF with other parties are about the same. Our relations with the

State of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh's side, and the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], are the same and correct. There is nothing binding parties together against someone else.

At the moment, some movements, organizations, and groups have carried out propaganda to the effect that it links us to the Khmer Rouge. They say that our front serves the Khmer Rouge. At times, they even use names such as mine, saying that I am a relative of Ieng Sary. This is to frighten our people and to make them misunderstand that our front is with the Khmer Rouge and that we are relatives of Khmer Rouge leaders. In fact, our relations with the Khmer Rouge are the same as those with the State of Cambodia or the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. All of us, the four parties, have to implement the Paris peace agreement to bring peace to Cambodia. The four parties have to make the whole country safe to enable our people to enjoy their rights and freedom in preparing themselves to elect a constituent assembly in early 1993.

If each side has the goodwill and abides by this agreement, we believe the elections will be held in a neutral political atmosphere. Then, our people will not be afraid or concerned about being mistreated just because they do not vote for certain people. This is the goal we should aim for in the SNC. Along with this, our SNC also has the task of restoring the national infrastructure and the economy damaged by war and neglect for over 20 years. We have the task of getting humanitarian aid for our needy compatriots suffering from shortages, floods, or crop failure. These are tasks we have to carry out in the future.

I appeal to everyone, to all Cambodian parties, to agree among themselves and get together to rebuild our country so that our people will have the peace that will enable the elections to be held justly and freely.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Apart from this, are there any other points relating to the implementation of the peace agreement which the general secretary can talk about now?

[Ieng Mouli] Following the presence of the UN body UNTAC in our country, the SNC, with the cooperation of UNTAC, has the task of restoring public order. We have to restore the law for everyone to abide by, such as laws on maintaining security and preventing robbery and plundering of our people's property. Some people have been killed in petty thefts. We have to take measures to ensure security for our people.

Another task is to prepare for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees now living along the Cambodian-Thai border. In starting to repatriate our compatriots, the United Nations in particular, has to provide assistance in determining the operations and finding land for their settlement. Then, there is a program of incorporating personnel working in the various establishments. All this can be done only after the complete presence of UNTAC in our Cambodia.

Then comes the important and difficult issue concerning troops. As our compatriots and the clergy know, the important point of the peace plan is the troop demobilization.

First, troops have to be gathered, disarmed, and demobilized. Our KPNLF now has a proposal for the United Nations to consider. The combatants we are talking about are not only our soldiers. They are the soldiers of all armies, whom after decades of war will be demobilized and sent home. The United Nations should have programs to assist these combatants so that they will have a decent livelihood after returning to civilian life.

In this sense, the United Nations can either provide them vocational training to earn a living or job guidance so that they can feed their families. Our KPNLF will raise this issue so that our compatriots will not loose out after the war, having been used for fighting and then abandoned after the war. Our KPNLF will strive to raise this issue with the United Nations. As for the ability to provide assistance, this rests with the United Nations and a number of countries which have the intention of doing this. This is our intention of ensuring the security for our people.

We think that if there are good programs for the combatants after they surrender their weapons and return to civilian life, that they have a bright future, then they will not stay in the jungles and remain as bandits to threaten the lives of others. This is a social problem we will have to think about. These are the programs we should implement to restore public order and law in our Cambodia.

[Correspondent] Thank you. The general secretary talks about maintaining public order. What about this movement to sell national and state property?

[Ieng Mouli] Our goal and that of all state authorities is to have laws, laws by an assembly elected by the people and not an assembly set up by the party. This is law. Without law, there will be anarchy and violation of law by a dictatorial regime.

Concerning the sale of national and state property, I think no one has the right to sell national property without the law from a national assembly saying so. The money coming from this sale should go to the national budget whose allocation has to be done in accordance with law every year. Some people say that in a liberal system, everything can be sold; ownership can be passed on to private hands.

However, if this is not done in accordance with clearly defined law and principles, the sale of national property is considered a violation of national law. If there is such a violation of national law, those who want to invest and have invested will not have any guarantee. On this issue,

our KPNLF would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of businessmen engaged in selling and buying national and state property to be careful.

[Correspondent] Before concluding, Mr. General Secretary, please explain the voting process to our Cambodian compatriots. I believe this is an important issue they want to know about.

[Ieng Mouli] I understand that a segment of opinion has not yet fully grasped the way the elections will be conducted. I thank the VOK for raising this matter again.

According to the provincial-level proportional system, soon after the voting register has been compiled, the number of all eligible voters in Cambodia will be known. Let us take Prey Veng Province as an example: After we know the number of eligible voters in all of Cambodia and in Prey Veng Province, the number of seats allocated to Prey Veng Province will be fixed. For example, after compiling the voting register, we would know that Prey Veng will have 10 seats or 10 representatives. Each party will present a list of these ten persons in the name of its party to be elected by our people. The people during the election will vote a party with ten candidates. For example, our KPNLF presents ten candidates, the party of Prince Ranariddh ten candidates, the State of Cambodia party ten candidates, and the Khmer Rouge ten candidates. Our people will then elect the party. If our party gets 100 percent of the votes, then we will win all ten seats. If we get 80 percent of the votes, we will win eight seats and if we get 50 percent of the votes, we will win five seats.

However, in this voting method, the people will not be required to cast the votes only for the provincial seat of Prey Veng. They will vote wherever they have voted in the past. Only all the ballots will be counted at the provincial seat. As for the UN method of stamping the hands of voters, it does not mean that if you vote for us you will get a mark on your hands. Any voter who has cast his ballot will have his hand stamped to show that he has already voted. According to that method, we can vote anywhere, near our house or far away in other villages provided they are located inside Prey Veng Province. This hand stamping is to prevent voters from voting again and again. This is only a preventive measure against cheating. The stamping is not to identify that you have voted for this or that party.

Moreover, these elections are for choosing a constituent assembly whose function is to write the Constitution. After we have the Constitution, this constituent assembly will become the legislative assembly and this assembly will form the government to run our country in the future. Thank you.

SNC Secretariat Meets 17 Dec

BK1912075091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Secretariat of the Supreme National Council [SNC] held a meeting at 2000 [1300 GMT] on 17 December at the Kremlin Palace under the supreme chairmanship of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the SNC.

Also present at the meeting were ambassadors and embassy representatives of France, the Soviet Union, China, U.K., and the United States designated to Cambodia and representatives of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC].

Speaking on behalf of the Secretariat and the SNC, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk expressed profound thanks to France, the Soviet Union, China, the U.K., and the United States for their significant contributions which have enabled the Cambodian solution to reach its final goal, and his firm confidence that France, the Soviet Union, China, the U.K., the United States, and the United Nations would continue to help promote the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk fixed every Tuesday as the meeting day of the Secretariat and every Friday as the meeting day of the SNC, adding that this week's SNC meeting was postponed to Saturday due to the absence of the SNC members from the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] party.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk also appointed Mr. Sok An as the secretary representing the State of Cambodia's side and Mr. Sieng Lapresse as representative of the tripartite side.

27 Nov Attack Said Mapped Out at State Palace

BK1912064991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

["Confidential Report" from the provincial town of Kompong Cham]

[Text] The foreign alliance and the Vietnamese aggressors planned the attack on the residence of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, members of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] from the party of Democratic Kampuchea, in Phnom Penh on 27 November 1991.

According to reports from our secret agents in the Kompong Cham provincial town, the premeditated 27 November attack was concocted by the foreign alliance and the Vietnamese aggressors under the command of the Vietnamese invaders secretely implanted in Cambodia. This was intended to:

1. Completely destroy the peace accord to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, which was officially, legally, and soiemnly signed in Paris on 23 October 1991;

2. Dismantle the Cambodian four-party SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state; and

3. Sabotage the planned cooperation between the United Nations and the SNC to verify the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

The secret informed sources also pointed out that, prior to the 27 November incident, the Vietnamese aggressors on a secret mission to Cambodia had held a meeting at Chamka Mon [State Palace] to map out a plan of attack. The details of the plan are as follows:

1. The secretely implanted Vietnamese aggressors in Cambodia assigned a group of cold-blooded agents from the Vietnamese police forces and some Vietnam-trained police agents to launch the attack beforehand;

2. The Vietnamese aggressors then assigned the Interior Minstry's secret agents, the 7 January ward's policemen, the Phnom Penh metropolitan police forces, and the Phnom Penh garrison's infantry troops—of which 80 percent are Vietnamese—to commit cruelties; and

3. Among the core Vietnamese forces implanted in Cambodia for the purpose of carrying out the 27 November onslaught, some were armed and wearing heavy boots for kicking fences and doors while others were disguised as tricycle operators armed with destructive, assault gear, such as steel rods, hammers, and axes for destroying the fences, doors, and windows. Some more elements, disguised as students and armed with K-59 pistols, were ready to intervene with guns if any armed clashes erupted.

The informed sources further said that shortly after the 27 November attack against the residence of Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, our people in Phnom Penh, personnel at various services, and students were terribly upset. They came in force to watch the incident. Our people and staff from various services in Phnom Penh were furious at the attack. They were of the opinion that those unfriendly elements, who caused the 27 November incident, were the arch assassins of our Cambodian nation.

Defense Workers Joining Anticorruption Protests

BK1912080391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 19 (AFP)—Defense Ministry workers torched a factory outbuilding here Thursday, claiming that official corruption was taking food out of their mouths.

The demonstration was at least the third to break out this week in the Cambodian capital, where such protests were barred for 16 years.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hor Sothoun has downplayed the spate of demonstrations, which have targetted specific officials and not the government as a whole.

"It's just a small number of dissatisfied people. The individual ministries will try to settle these affairs in an amicable manner" he told AFP Wednesday.

But another official suggested that Prime Minister Hun Sen had opened a Pandora's box by saying publicly Monday that he had no right to stop peaceful demonstrations. Hun Sen was actually referring to protests against members of his rival faction, the Khmer Rouge.

"Hun Sen has thrown water into the wind and now it is flying back in his face," commented the middle-level official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"If the soldiers decide to demonstrate, that's when it will really get interesting."

Close to 120 civilian factory workers, clad in their green defense ministry uniforms, burned a wooden outbuilding and brandished homemade signs to protest the sale of a tract of land alongside the factory where they had grown rice and vegetables since 1979 to supplement their meagre salaries.

"We're not protesting against the government. We need this land to live," said Kung Sitha, 30.

Their signs accused four factory managers of corruption in the October sale of the land to a foreign firm, which they could not name.

The arrival of foreign firms and international organizations has triggered a real-estate boom here in recent months, with government ministries among the leading vendors.

The sales have led to layoffs at overstaffed public enterprises, but many employees are convinced their superiors are pocketing a share of the proceeds—a charge they acknowledge is hard to prove.

About 40 factory workers demonstrated Tuesday across from the industry ministry, followed Wednesday by 150-200 Phnom Penh Municipal Bank employees.

Hundreds of onlookers swelled both demonstrations, but the crowds were good-natured and police used no force as they tried to keep people from blocking traffic.

"Cambodians are smiling now that there is democracy," one young state worker said.

Such protests would have been unheard of before October, when Phnom Penh Vietnamese-installed ruling party dropped all mention of communism and declared itself in favor of multi-party democracy.

The radical Marxist Khmer Rouge, who ruled Cambodia from 1975 until the current regime came to power in January 1979, would have almost certainly killed anyone foolhardy enough to demonstrate.

The October 23 peace treaty calls for Cambodians to be allowed full democratic freedoms so that elections due to be organized by the United Nations here in early 1993 can be free and fair.

The peace plan also calls for the demobilization of the rival armies, which will add thousands of unskilled young men to the ranks of the unemployed.

Print Workers Take Manager Hostage

BK1912104891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, Dec 19 (AFP)—Striking print workers took their plant manager hostage Thursday as Cambodia's anti-corruption protests moved beyond name-calling.

Elsewhere, some 120 Defense Ministry employees torched a factory outbuilding to protest the sale of the factory's adjoining farmland, which they had used to supplement their meager incomes.

The striking workers surrounding the printing house of the state-owned KAMPUCHEA WEEKLY newspaper said they had locked Deputy Chief Editor Khim Pon inside to back their demand for compensation following the building's sale.

"We'll let him out when we get 1,000 dollars each," said one 25-year-old man.

A woman, also 25, said she had been offered a new job at the state radio but had turned it down. [no beginning quote as received] Typesetting is all I know," she said. "I came to work here when I was a little girl in 1979 because the state needed workers. Now they throw us out."

She said 111 workers stood to lose their jobs following the sale of the plant to an Australian company.

The newspaper's directors are negotiating with the strikers, who said they were regularly bringing food and drink to their captive boss.

The strike is the fourth labor protest this week in the Cambodian capital, where such activities have been barred for 16 years. [passage omitted]

Dissidents Vow To Form Political Party

BK1912044691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 19 (AFP)—Six senior Cambodian officials who were stripped of their posts and jailed after trying to form a liberal political party last year have decided to forge ahead with their campaign, one of the six said.

Kann Man, former deputy director of cabinet at the Foreign Ministry, described the party's goals in an interview this week with AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE], the first by any of the six since their release in October after nearly 17 months in prison.

He said the "Free Social Democratic Party (FSDP)" wanted to see multi-party democracy, human rights, independence and a free-market economy in Cambodia.

"Communism does not lead to progress," he said.

The six, including Transport and Communications Minister Ung Phan, were arrested in May 1990 after they drafted a document outlining the party's objectives, Khan Man said.

Phnom Penh's official press reported at the time that a "coup" had been foiled.

Kann Man said he was held until October 7, 1991 at Phnom Penh's biggest prison, T-3, alongside common-law criminals.

He declined to elaborate in print about the conditions of his detention other than to say he was not tortured during questioning.

Authorities cautioned the six upon their release not to resume political activities, he said.

Asked why he had decided to risk speaking out, Kann Man replied: "I want people to know I love my country."

Phnom Penh authorities still hold 1,260 political prisoners, though they have released 1,034 other inmates since signing the Cambodian peace accord October 23, Deputy Interior Minister Nuon Sareth told an Amnesty International delegation last week.

The six dissidents have met since their release and decided to go ahead with plans to launch the FSDP to contest elections due to be organized here by the United Nations in early 1993, Kann Man said.

They have yet to begin organizing, however. "The circumstances do not allow it yet. We don't have the freedom," he said.

The first person to try to launch a new political party here, Cambodian-American Vanna Om Strinko, was intimidated by security officers into cancelling her announcement October 31.

Phnom Penh's Vietnamese-installed government, which dropped all mention of communism and declared itself in favor of multi-party democracy following the peace treaty, said she had simply violated procedural regulations.

Ung Phan will head the FSDP, Kann Man said.

The other members are former Planning Department director Nou Saingkhan, Army Sub-Colonel Khang Mathory, Bureau of Economic and Technical Research director Thoung Saray and Sub-Colonel attached to the General Staff An Soum.

A seventh, senior Communications Ministry official Yang Horn, was freed after less than a year.

Kann Man said the officials were drawn together in early 1990 because they shared the view that their colleagues in Phnom Penh's Vietnamese-installed communist government were not exercising sufficient independence or leading the country toward peace and prosperity, he said.

"We knew that socialist countries were collapsing all over the world."

They completed a draft document outlining the party's objectives in May and began talking to like-minded people. But they were arrested before they could enlist any additional party members, he said.

"It's not only the people in my party that have these ideas. All people like democracy. They need independence. They want to stop the war. They don't want the government to conscript their children to fight with other Khmer," he said.

"They want to have the freedom to do business, to do anything they want. They want the authorities to respect human rights. They want freedom of religion, freedom to practice traditional customs. And they want the country to develop economically, to stand alongside other developed countries in the world."

Kann Man, 39, served in the early '80s as personal secretary to then Foreign Minister Hun Sen, who is now premier of the Phnom Penh government.

A strong promoter of Khmer history and culture, he said he was an archeology student when he fled Phnom Penh in 1975 to escape the genocidal Khmer Rouge.

He is also the head in Cambodia of the New Apostolic Church. None of the other five party founders are members of the Christian church, he said.

Phnom Penh's ruling party has now implemented many of the reforms demanded by the six, but at the time of their arrest it was keeping a tight lid on internal dissent as it fought a war against three guerrilla factions.

Phnom Penh made significant concessions to obtain the October 23 peace treaty, which calls for the four factions to jointly represent Cambodian sovereignty until the U.N.-organized elections.

The peace treaty calls for the four rival factions to release all their political prisoners. It also calls for Cambodians to be allowed full political freedom so that the elections can be free and fair.

Kann Man did not rule out a possible alliance between the FSDP and one of the existing Cambodian factions but he declined to say which one. He also did not say where the party hoped to gets its funding.

Tie Banh Reaffirms Cooperation with France

BK1812035191 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Dec (SPK)—France will, at the end of next month, send 200 experts to assist the UN transitional authority in Cambodia in mine clearing, Philippe Coste, French ambassador to the Supreme National Council said. At a recent meeting with General Tie Banh, defense minister of the State of Cambodia, in the presence of French Colonel Guillou, the French diplomat affirmed that his government was prepared to do all it can to promote the implementation of the peace accord signed in Paris on 23 October.

Mr. Philippe Coste spoke about the urgent task of neutralizing mines in the west of Cambodia in order to facilitate the repatriation of some 350,000 Cambodian refugees.

He pointed out that France will do everything possible to stabilize the situation in Cambodia, which needs a great deal of time for its reconstruction.

For his part, Gen. Tie Banh thanked the French Government for its efforts in the achievement of a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

"France has not only participated in the Cambodian peace process but has also continued to grant aid to the Cambodian people," said Gen. Tie Banh, reaffirming that he is ready to cooperate with the French side.

Foreign Ministry Discusses Qian Qichen's Visit

BK1912060491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0515 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 19—According to AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE], Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China will visit Cambodia December 27-28, the first Chinese official to visit there in 12 years, the Foreign Ministry annouced here Wednesday.

The visit, originally scheduled for earlier this month, was postponed after leaders of the pro-Beijing Khmer Rouge were attacked upon returning to Cambodia to attend the inaugural meeting of the Cambodian parties in Phnom Penh.

Qian will be the first Chinese government official to travel to Phnom Penh since 1979, when Vietnamese ousted the Khmer Rouge. His trip follows a Cambodian peace agreement reached in October.

The foreign minister was expected to discuss the issue of providing development aid to Cambodia.

Qian was invited by Prince Norodom Sihanouk who heads Cambodia's Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body grouping the four Cambodian parties.

Indonesia

Australia's Evans To Discuss Dili Incident

BK1912120991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1129 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans arrived here Thursday morning for a three-day visit to Indonesia.

He said on the arrival at Sukarno-Hatta airport here, the purpose of his visit was to discuss with Indonesian officials the incident which occurred in Dili, East Timor, on November 12, 1991.

He expressed the hope that the investigation into the incident by the national investigation commission (KPN) will turn out appropriate and fair results.

The schedule of the current visit of the Australian foreign minister to Indonesia was not changed until Thursday afternoon despite a report that Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke was voted out of office by a specially convened meeting of the labour members of parliament on Thursday.

Hawke, Prime Minister for almost nine years, received 51 votes in a secret ballot to 56 votes for former treasurer Paul Keating, who now becomes Prime Minister.

Thursday afternoon, Evans held talks with the International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC), possibly discussing the Dili incident.

According to schedule, Evans will attend a dinner party hosted by his Indonesian counterpart Foreign Minister Ali Alatas Thursday night. Friday morning, he is scheduled to give a press conference.

The Australian Embassy here was not informed yet whether Evans will fly back earlier than schedule. Evans is one of Bob Hawke's confidential men.

UN Aid To Be Unaffected by Dili Incident

BK1912112991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0958 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—The recent incident in Dili, East Timor, will not affect UNESCO's assistance to Indonesia.

A UNESCO representative to Indonesia said here on Thursday the UN organization planned to increase its assistance to Indonesia from U.S. $15 million this year to at least U.S. $17 million next year.

This is the fourth largest assistance after the one given to India, China, Bangladesh and southern African countries, Anthony A. Kennedy said.

The UNICEF will cooperate fully with the Indonesian government in carrying out its assistance for programs such as integrated health-care service, breast-feeding campaign, and children's nutrition improvement program throughout including Dili he said.

The UNICEF has been committed to help children everywhere regardless of their countries' political affairs like what it has done in Iraq during the Gulf war, in Vietnam and Nigeria, he said.

Emphasizing the need to help the developing countries Kennedy said that these countries' debt and interest payment made to the developed countries totalling U.S.$200 billion was still fourfold larger than the latter's assistance to them.

How can they finance all their programs if there is still a gap in the flow of fund like this, he said suggesting that there should be a policy change to overcome the gap.

A new measure to open the opportunities of the children worldwide needs to be taken especially now after the world economic and political structure has changed [for the] better, he added.

Kennedy said he planned to popularize Indonesia's recent success in organizing a baby loving hospital competition [as received], involving 300 hospitals throughout the country, to the world.

He praised Indonesia's direct involvement in the international children summit in New York in 1990 and appreciated President Suharto's personal support for the signing of child declaration that year.

Indonesia's leadership in world organizations will create new world order and children's opportunities throughout the world, he said.

East Timor Resistance Threatens Military Action

LD1912092791 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] An East Timorese resistance spokesman today threatened stepped up military action against Indonesia. The diplomatic representative of the National Council of Timorese Resistance Groups, Jose Ramos Horta, said Fretilin guerrillas would cease their recent low profile. Mr. Ramos Horta said Fretilin had held back because of negotiations over the proposed visit to East Timor by a Portuguese delegation.

[Begin Horta recording] [passage indistinct] For the past three years the resistance has kept a very low profile deliberately to allow the negotiations between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the secretary general to proceed to effect the proposed Portuguese parliamentary mission to East Timor. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mr. Ramos Horta said that following the Dili massacre the resistance was no longer interested in the Portuguese mission. He said there had been no outside supplies to the resistance and its guerrilla activities had been limited.

Suharto: West Lifestyle Leads to Global Warming

BK1812112891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1018 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto has said that the life-style of the advanced states contributes to the increasing trend of global warming.

Some of the heat of the globe are caused by the life-style of the advanced industrial countries, the president said in his speech at the opening of great apes conference at the state palace here on Wednesday.

The head of state who was accompanied by Forestry Minister Hasyrul Harahap and Tourism, Post, and Telecommunications Minister Susilo Sudarman said that in order to overcome the ever increasing global warming, tropical forests which constitute essential elements that determine the global climate and environment should be preserved.

Tropical forests also hold a substantial reserve of carbon, which can raise the world's temperature if it were used indiscriminately, the president added.

If countries which have tropical forests succeed to manage and preserve their forests, they can give share to the improvement of a balanced environment and global climate, he said.

On the contrary, however, if they fail to manage them well, they will consequently raise the temperature of the globe, the head of state told the conference which was attended by experts at home and those from abroad.

According to the president, because Indonesia is fully aware of the importance of tropical forests, it supports the efforts to preserve the natural resource.

Referring to the conference, President Suharto appealed to the international community to preserve the great apes of the world as well as other species of primate either by providing assistance or by developing the science and technology related to the preservation of the species and their habitat.

Previously, the head of state received appreciation in the form of a cup from the International Orangutan Foundation for his efforts of encouraging the preservation of natural resources, including the fauna.

General Urges Caution in Facing 1992 Elections

BK1712094691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0833 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—Everybody should be cautious in facing the 1992 general elections (pemilu) so that the increasing political temperature towards the democratic fiesta would not, in any way, ruin national stability, a high ranking military officer said here Monday evening.

In a written address at the opening of the Gakpi [expansion unknown] workers association national meeting, Chief of the Sociopolitical Affairs Department of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Lt. Gen. Harsudiono Hartas also said that opportunities are widely open for those wishing to express their opinion in a responsible way.

However, this condition should be kept in such a way that it reflected the dynamic spirit of a country in development process which would not ruin national stability, he said.

Hartas reminded all contestants in the 1992 pemilu that they should not start their campaign activities now.

The campaign will not begin until next year, he said, adding that the ruling Functional Group (Golkar), the nationalist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and the Muslim United Development Party (PPP) apparently had started working hard in their respective style to attract as many voters as possible.

Indonesia's 1992 pemilu is its sixth since it gained independence on August 17, 1945.

On opportunities to express opinion, he said it should be conducted in a responsible way that no one would try to use them to mislead the Indonesian people.

With such opportunities, Hartas reminded, it was possible that some parties might air sensitive issues like social gap, indigenous and non-indigenous problem, as well as the crossing out of the names of outspoken people from the list of the coming parliamentarian candidates.

Hartas further said that some people still think that the Pancasila state ideology and the 1945 constitution must be replaced as they were considered inappropriate which could be seen from some negative excesses of the development activities.

It is obvious that such an opinion is baseless. Development is a long process. And if there are negative excesses, it is the excesses which must be phased out, not the Pancasila or the 1945 Constitution, he said.

The two, he said, were the nation's essential life guidance that they could not be replaced.

The Gakpi workers association's national congress is scheduled to last until December 18.

Laos

Meeting Held With Thai Border Security Committee

BK1812095991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 16 December, the secretaries of the delegations of the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao border security cooperation committees held a consultative meeting in Nong Khai Province, Thailand. The meeting

was aimed at discussing and jointly signing a memorandum on preparatory work for a meeting to be held in the immediate future between high-level Lao and Thai military delegations. The Lao side was headed by Colonel Phommachak Soutthisan, head of the secretaries of the Lao-Thai Border Security Cooperation Committee. The Thai side was headed by Lieutenant General Sanan Khachonklam, head of the secretaries of the Thai-Lao Border Security Cooperation Committee.

In the meeting, the two sides informed each other of the various issues included in their respective agenda, on which they had friendly discussions. Both sides discussed the means of providing facilities for their high-level military delegations to hold the meeting and to achieve success. In conclusion, the two sides jointly signed the memorandum on the agenda.

Thai Team Visits Princess-Funded Orphanage

BK1912101991 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] A coordinating team of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of Thailand led by Sumet Tantiwetchakun, special secretary of the advisory committee in charge of coordinating royally-sponsored projects, arrived in Vientiane at noon on 17 December. The team proceeded to the site of the princess-funded lunch for orphans project at km marker no. 67. They were warmly welcomed by Brigadier General Soutchai Thammasit, head of the Cadres Organizing Department of the Interior Ministry, and party. Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], was also on hand to welcome them.

After arriving, the delegation held a ceremony to release some 5,000 fishes into the water. Delegations from the two sides then held a meeting to discuss and exchange views on promoting activities for the orphanage school, the lunch project for the orphans, and the action program to facilitate the promotion of activities at the orphanage.

On the evening of the same day, Brig. Gen. Soutchai Thammasit and the Lao delegation organized a banquet at Lan Xang Hotel in honor of the Thai delegation. Attending were Colonel Bounpheng Vongphachan, head of the Administrative Office of the Interior Ministry, along with other guests of honor. Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the LPDR, and his wife were also present.

Later, on the morning of 18 December, the coordinating delegation of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon paid a courtesy call on Col. Bounpheng Vongphachan, head of the Administrative Office of the Interior Ministry. The hosts and the guests discussed the project under the patronage of her royal highness for the orphanage. The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of neighborly friendship. Earlier, the orphanage also received aid from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon. The aid includes the Sirinthon dormitory worth 22 million kips.

Materials Given to Returnees from China, Thailand

BK1412094691 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 14 (KPL)—The social welfare service of Saravane Province has provided care to returnees by using a U.S. $102,500 aid it has received from the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] over the past 10 months.

During the period, the province received 4 batches of 145 returnees, of whom some 101 were from China and 45 from Thailand. The majority of the returnees are inhabitants of Khong Sedon and Lakhonpheng Districts.

With the UNHCR's aid, the service made nine fish rearing ponds and two weirs, bought 400 plough-shares for the returnees, in addition to supplying materials and household utensils to them.

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives Birthday Greetings

BK1612131691 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 16 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, has received greetings on his 71th [as received] birthday from Chea Sim, president of the People's Party of Cambodia Central Committee, and Heng Samrin, president of the State Council of Cambodia.

The Cambodian leaders wished the Lao president health, longevity and success in his noble responsibility. They were also convinced of the further developed traditional ties of solidarity, friendship and cooperation happily existing between the two parties and people.

Philippines

Editorial Demands Bases Termination Notice

HK1912041291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Serve That Notice Now"]

[Text] Talks with the U.S. on the three-year withdrawal of Subic Naval Base are headed for the rocks, says Franklin Drilon. This is so, he says, because the U.S. will not submit to the Philippine Constitution's proscription against nuclear weapons, nor will it give any definite schedule for withdrawal.

It's not very nice to say, "We told you so," but, well, we told you so.

It's a middle finger thrust in the face of Philippine sovereignty, a gesture that will be lost only on those who think sovereignty is just a good word for scrabble, or an extended middle finger is just a good substitute for a conductor's baton. Our Constitution is not all it scorns. It scorns everything we are. It says: "We know you have voted against the treaty, we know we must go without a treaty, we know three years are all we get in lieu of a treaty, but, well, treaty or not, we mean to stay."

Much has been said about how right Japan was to have apologized to the world for putting a great deal of it under fire and sword. But nothing has yet been said about how right America and the other colonial powers would be to apologize to the world not only for doing exactly the same thing, but for continuing to do it to this day. More particularly, nothing has yet been said about how right America would be to apologize to the Philippines not only for slaughtering half its menfolk in a not-so-splendid little war—at least to the victims—but for continuing to slaughter its independence at every turn.

There are limits to suspending disbelief. Those limits are reached when a superpower tells you that it is about to abandon its base but would like to continue deploying nuclear weapons there. Those limits are reached when a superpower tells you it is about to leave soon but will not tell you when.

Lest the Americans—or we ourselves—forget, the three-year withdrawal period was conceived essentially as balato, or gratuity. It was meant to ease the pain of transition—for both the Americans and the base workers. It was not meant to allow the U.S. to continue to defend anything in the interim, least of all the Philippines. That premise the Senate rejected when it voted not to have a new base treaty last September. Neither was it meant to allow the country to continue to earn more dollars in the interim. That too the Senate rejected when it opted—or at least the original authors of the three-year withdrawal did—to give the three years away gratis. Balato, precisely.

Well, we did say any withdrawal short of immediate—or one that went beyond one year, which was the maximum interpretation of the Ramos-Rusk Agreement—was flirting with suicide. Any withdrawal short of immediate, or one year, was an engraved invitation for the U.S. to stay here forever. The one year in the 25-plus-one is the withdrawal. A withdrawal from a withdrawal is not called a withdrawal. It is called Filipino roulette.

But this is water under the bridge. The water that is over the bridge, and threatens to sweep it to the sea, is that the U.S. means to go on with life as though the Philippine Senate had not rejected the U.S. bases once and for all. The water over the bridge is that the U.S. means to hang on to Subic until it is able to negotiate a new treaty with the next Philippine administration. Presumably, that government is not bound to honor the previous government's commitments—except those that have to do with paying fraudulent debts.

Clearly, this is a matter that goes beyond partisanship and calls upon everyone to unite to defend the national will.

Serve that notice now.

Aquino Announces Six Day Cease-Fire

HK1912105791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] President Aquino formally announced today a separate 72-hour cease-fire for Christmas and New Year's Day. The president approved the longer cease-fire in her capacity as Armed Forces of the Philippines commander-in-chief. Tanny Rodriguez reports:

[Begin recording] The two 72-hour cease-fire periods were first recommended by General Lisandro Abadia last year, but the president only declared a 48-hour separate cease-fire.

The first three day truce starts at 0001 on 23 December and expires at 2359 on 25 December. The second cease-fire will commence at 0001 on 30 December and stop at 2359 on 1 January 1992. [end recording]

Armed Forces To Celebrate 56th Anniversary 21 Dec

HK1912051691 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Dec 91 p 12

[By Jen Jorvina]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) celebrates its 56th anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 21, with President Aquino, AFP commander-in-chief, as the guest of honor, the AFP public information office announced yesterday.

The celebration at the parade grounds of Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, starts with a mass at the St. Ignatius Chapel.

Arrival honors for Mrs. Aquino start at 9:30 a.m. after which an invocation by the AFP chief chaplain, presentation of troops, presentation of awards and decorations, and a pass-in review by Philippine Military Academy (PMA) cadets and various AFP contigents, will follow.

Highlighting this year's anniversary is the inauguration of the new AFP general headquarters (AFP-GHQ) building, the symbol of military command which was refurbished after it was damaged during the 1987 coup attempt led by military rebels.

Top awards go to 2nd Lt. Bartolome Vicente O. Baccaro and Cpl. Romualdo C. Rubi, both of the Philippine Army, who will get the Medal of Valor for exemplary feats in battle in the finest tradition of Filipino soldiery.

Other awardees are Lt. Col. Arsenio C. Sebastian, Outstanding Achievement Medal; Army Capt. Abdulnasser M. Kasim, Army T/Sgt. Bernardino B. Dano and Navy

Cpl. Dennis A. Nael, Gold Cross Medal; BMI [Expansion unknown] Ismnel B. Gunting, AFP Enlisted Man of the Year; Army Sgt. Ellen V. Almadrones, AFP Enlisted Woman of the Year; CAA [expansion unknown] Antonio Alvares, Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) Man of the Year.

Mrs. Emma N. Selibio of AFP Medical Center, Civilian Supervisor of the Year; Simeon Garcia of Nascom, Navul Base, Cavite, Civilian Employe of the Year; Cdt. Capt. Jefferson T. Descalla of Silliman University, Dumaguete City and Cdt. Col. Ma. Gracia T. Tumala of Catanduanes State College, Virac, Catanduanes, CMT [Citizen Military Training] Cadet/Cadette of the Year, respectively. The award for non-governmental organizations went to Land Bank of the Philippines and Radio Television, Malacanang, while the Presidential Streamer Awrad [as published], Philippine Air Force (PAF) Helicopter Wing.

Major activities include skydiving and static jumps, band and choral concerts at the Luneta, Medical action projects by AFP's Task Group Kandili [Care], hospital visits by Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia, AFP chief of staff, and major service commanders, capped by skydiving and silent drill and evening parade by PMA cadets at the Luneta Grandstand on Dec. 22.

Navy To Transfer Coast Guard to Civilian Authority

HK1912053391 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 19 Dec 91 p 3

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Naval officials yesterday proposed huge cuts in naval manpower and resources by transferring the Philippine Coast Guard from the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] to the Department of Transportation and Communications next year.

Philippine Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas said the proposal was actually part of the military's overall program to streamline and overhaul the AFP structure and leadership.

Other than the reorganization plan, Dumancas also favored the transfer of the Philippine Coast Guard to a civilian agency because "most of their functions are already outside the military, like maritime safety and administration, anti-pollution and navigational safety administration."

Commodore Carlos Agustin, the Coast Guard commandant, said his force would be better off outside the armed forces because of the "inherent weakness" in the existing set-up.

As a unit under the navy, the Coast Guard "has prejudiced its flexibility in career development and logistics," Agustin said.

"The lack of a unique and systematic career development with all the inherent stages of personnel management, like recruitment, training, assignment and evaluation, continues to prejudice the coast guard in fulfilling effectively its programs and plans," Agustin added.

He said the frequent rotation of coast guard personnel to the main naval warfare fields has hampered the professional growth of coast guard personnel.

He said the personnel, numbering 3,000, should concentrate more on sea-based maritime safety operations, law enforcement and disaster preparedness rather than the combat fields like anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, surface and amphibious operations, which by themselves required full-time exposure.

On logistics, modernization of coast guard ships and communications, lighthouses, bouys and other equipment and facilities are only secondary to the $2.1-billion, 10-year naval modernization plan.

Agustin said the acquisitions for coast guard modernization, based on the military master plan, would begin only in 1995, when his force already needed modern ships, communications and other equipment to effectively patrol the country's coastlines.

Muslim Group To Boycott, Destabilize '92 Polls

HK1912051891 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Dec 91 p 21

[By Cynthia L. De Leon]

[Text] Marawi City—The sessionist Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] will boycott and possibly destabilize the 1992 elections, two chief-tains told INQUIRER in separate interviews.

"If MNLF rejects the Constitution, how much more the electoral process. The entire MNLF will not participate," said Manda Hamza, the new state chairman of the Ranao Sur State Revolutionary Committee (RSSRC).

He said the boycott was declared by MNLF chairman Nur Misuari whom he met with other MNLF central committee officers recently in Saudi Arabia.

He said Nur Misuari is coming back but refused to say when. Reports said the MNLF chief is expected back sometime this month.

"Our action to stop or intervene will be made known when election time nears," he said.

Alexis Alawi, head of the Misamis Oriental MNLF Revolutionary Party Committee (RPC), said all provincial RPCs in Mindanao will not participate in the electoral process because "we are not a part of the RP [Republic of the Philippines] government system.

Alawi said the MNLF is still pursuing session. "We are continuing the struggle politically and military. [no end quote as published]

RAM Denies Involvement in Coup Plot, Armory Raid

HK1912100491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By Rodney Jaleco of DZRH Unit 1]

[Text] The Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] is not involved in the reported new coup plot codenamed Oplan Noel [Operation Plan No Elections].

Jose Almonte, Economic Intelligence Investigation Bureau commissioner, said he received messages from RAM-SFP-YOU members, including former Philippine Constabulary Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit, in which they strongly denied any plan to rise up against the Aquino government. Almonte, though now a government official, was part of the original Reform the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Movement formed by former Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan, Lt. Colonel Eduardo Kapunan, and other idealist AFP officers against the Marcos regime. According to Almonte, the rebel leaders did not say who is behind the mysterious Oplan Noel. AFP Chief General Lisandro Abadia also denied having gathered military intelligence reports on the said coup plot. Almonte added the RAM-SFP-YOU denied they were responsible for the armory raid in Camp Crame, in which 60 antitank missiles were stolen. The military recovered 20, but does not know who is holding the other 40 antitank missiles and where they would use them.

Rebels Still Possess 40 Anti-Tank Weapons

HK1912035491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Dec 91 pp 1, 10

[By Gay Dumat-ol]

[Text] Military rebels still have 40 powerful light anti-tank weapons (LAWS) stolen from Camp Crame last month which they can use to "embarrass" the government, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia admitted yesterday.

This belied a claim by the Philippine National Police [PNP] that all weapons carted away by rebel soldiers who raided the Camp Crame armory last Nov. 24 had been recovered.

"Meron pang natitirang 40 (anti-tank rockets) still floating...20 lang ang na-recover," [There are still 40 [anti-tank rockets] floating around only 20 have been recovered] Abadia said.

The LAWS is a modern anti-tank weapon known for its deadly accuracy and devastating firepower. The LAWS projectile can pierce through a tank's thick armor and packs a high explosive.

During the December 1989 putsch that almost toppled the government, loyal forces used LAWS provided by the United States to repel rebel forces with armored support.

Abadia said the rightist rebels belonging to the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM) [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance] "to embarrass the Aquino government."

Abadia did not say how but AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Santos said the group of Gregorio "Gringo' Honasan can use the weapons for sabotage missions.

"They can bomb Malacanang or Camp Aguinaldo (with the LAWS)," de los Santos said.

But Abadia expressed hope that Honasan will keep his promise not to resort to terrorism.

Abadia also revealed that military operatives were concentrating on arreting Honasan since the Nov. 23 surrender deadline set by President Aquino expired.

Abadia said Honasan's catpure will break the morale of the movement.

The Camp Crame armory was ransacked by a team of rebel commandos who fled with more than 60 anti-tank rockets, a 90-mm recoilless rifle, a machine gun, several assault rifles, thousands of bullets and 500 dynamite sticks.

A few days later, police operatives raided an alleged rebel lair in Little Baguio, San Juan, and PNP officials claimed all weapons ransacked from the Camp Crame armory had been recovered.

PNP Director General Cesar P. Nazareno relieved Senior Superintendent Roberto Lastimoso, commander of Camp Crame, following the rebel raid which was executed in 20 minutes without resistance from camp security.

Thailand

Officials Comment on U.S. Query on Labor Leader

BK1912082591 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 19 Dec 91 pp 1, 18

[Text] Prasit Chaithongphan, the deputy director general of the Labor Department, commented on the letter submitted by seven U.S. congressmen to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun during Anan's visit to the United States about the disappearance of Thanong Pho-an, former president of the Labor Council of Thailand. Prasit said: "If the United States really wants to find Thanong, it is welcome to search for him. The Thais themselves have not been able to find him so far." Prasit said the AFL-CIO also suggested that the U.S. Government would apply trade pressure against Thailand until human rights violations and unfair trade practices end.

Prasit said to reporters on 18 December at the Interior Ministry that M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, had already informed the International Labor Oranization meeting in Geneva and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions meeting in Bangkok that the Thai Government has been continuing to search for Thanong.

Prasit said: "U.S. labor leaders have also gone missing; it does not happen only in Thailand. The U.S. Embassy and many people acknowledge that mafias exist in the United States. There are criminals in Thailand, and Thanong's absence could be the work of criminals." He denied Thanong's disappearance was the wish of the government, saying there was no reason for such action. Other labor leaders have also criticized the National Peacekeeping Council, but they have not gone missing. The disappearance of a labor leader and removal of a country's privileges are unrelated issues and should be kept separate.

Prasit said: "This is like the story between a lamb and a fox; one wants to intimidate another." He said Thailand and the United States are friends. Why should Thailand's trading privileges be cut when it is no fault of Thai people? He added that the seven U.S. congressmen are wealthy and can afford to come to search for Thanong. They would be welcome to carry out a search.

Meanwhile, Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit na Songkhla said confidently that Thanong is still alive and is hiding somewhere.

Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said that the government is doing its utmost. Thanong's disappearance has worried everyone in the Police Department and the Interior Ministry. There is no need for anyone to rush us, although rushing us might push us to work harder. We are searching for Thanong. Itsaraphong added that his ministry is already giving protection for intimidated labor leaders the best it can. The ministry cares for poor workers employed in the private sector, he said.

EC Envoy to Thailand Supports AFTA Concept

BK1912024391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Dec 91 p B12

[Excerpt] The European Community Ambassador to Thailand has predicted that the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) and EC single market will not shut out other countries, saying trade will continue with the rest of the world as people in the two blocs gradually get used to the transformation.

AFTA is the best way to enhance capitalism in the region, giving member countries a stake in building their economies and boosting trade by attracting more investment. "AFTA would enhance the economies in the region both in internal and external terms," EC Ambassador Albert Maes said. [passage omitted]

Bank Seeks Branches in Vietnam, China, Cambodia

BK1912023391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Dec 91 p 17

[Text] Bangkok Bank will put more emphasis on expanding its branch network in Asia in order to become a leader in trade financing in this region, its president Chatri Sophonphanit said yesterday.

He said the bank had set a plan to open a branch each in Vietnam, China and Cambodia, while the possibility of opening a branch in Burma and Laos is being studied.

"We have received unofficial response from Vietnam that we can set up a branch," Mr Chatri said, adding that the branch would work closely with the bank's branches in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan in trade financing.

He said the bank would not concentrate on direct project financing in the Indochinese countries, but on trade financing.

He said the bank had also been approached to set up a joint- venture bank in Cambodia, but it wants to set up a branch instead.

"They will allow us to hold up to 90 percent in the joint venture."

Mr Chatri also said the bank would continue to grow with quality.

"Our emphasis on quality growth in the past five years has started to pay off. This year, we have higher profits and an ability to expand without having to increase our capital. The bank has also been able to manage past problem loans quite effectively."

He said the bank's performance this year was satisfactory, with profits higher than in 1990, meaning there is no need for the bank to raise its capital next year.

Meanwhile, executive vice-president Chada Wattanasiritham of Siam Commercial Bank, which recently joined hands with Cambodian authorities to set up a bank in Cambodia, said the joint-venture agreement actually stated that no other joint-venture bank would be allowed in Cambodia.

"But now it seems the Cambodian authorities have been granting more licences for new joint-venture banks and foreign bank branches in Cambodia.

"We have sought to meet with the Cambodian authorities to remind them of their contract obligation not to allow such banks and branches to be opened," Ms Chada noted.

Defense Ministry Land Development Plan Rejected

BK1912013991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] The government screening committee on economic affairs yesterday threw out a Defence Ministry draft bill seeking to amend regulations to allow it to commercially exploit properties belonging to military units on the grounds that the proposal needed further clarification.

The proposed bill, described as "vague and ambiguous", was rejected last month by another government screening committee in charge of national security for the same reason.

The Finance Ministry fears that the Defence Ministry proposal, if approved, would set a precedent for other government agencies and deprive the ministry of an important source of revenue.

Both committees asked the Defence Ministry to rewrite the proposal in consultation with the Finance Ministry's Treasury Department and send it back for reconsideration.

"We asked the Finance Ministry to scrutinize the bill because the proposal put forward by the Defence Ministry is still not clear, particularly regarding the commercial exploitation of land, the types of activities to be carried out on the land, and where the proceeds from the land would go," PM's Office Minister Phaichit Uathawikun said.

Sources who were present at yesterday's government screening committee meeting said the Finance Ministry voiced objection to the Defence Ministry's wish to independently make use of its land for commercial purposes, including leasing it to the private sector.

The said the Defence Ministry's plan to lease five million rai of army land was harshly criticized by economic ministers.

The Finance Ministry is the legal owner and responsible for the management of all public land and land owned by government agencies throughout the country. Utilization of designated public land and land belonging to government agencies must be approved by the Finance Ministry.

The Defence Ministry informed the economic ministers yesterday that it wanted to develop the land for agricultural and industrial activities. Returns from these projects would be kept by the Defence MInistry, a move which runs counter to normal fiscal discipline.

The source said Deputy Prime Minister Sano Unakul, chairman of the economic screening committee, asked the Finance Ministry to consider the proposal and make recommendations to the ministers.

"If the army wants to lease land to the private sector, it has to seek approval from the Finance Ministry, as the law governing the utilization of public land already sets the conditions, procedures and fees for lease arrangements," the source said.

The army has been planning to move the Second Cavalry Division on Paholyothin Road near the Victory Monument out of town and lease the area to private developers.

Earlier, the Treasury Department and the Defence Ministry had agreed that the army might be able develop the plot if the investment came from the ministry's own budget and the development purpose was agricultural.

Senior military officers have said proceeds from the exploitation of land and facilities belonging to military units would be channelled toward a fund for modernization of the armed forces and development of the country.

NPKC Not To Hinder Chatchai Election Efforts

BK1812152891 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, deputy army commander in chief and secretary general of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], has said that whether or not General Chatchai Chunhawan, the former Prime Minister, will run in the upcoming general elections has nothing to do with the military.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Is it true that leading NPKC officers had a meeting with Sano [Sano Thianthong, a leading member of the Chat Thai Party] to prevent Gen. Chatchai from running in the general elections?

[Itsaraphong] It is not true. There was no such meeting. This is a matter of rights and also a personal affair. The NPKC does not interfere and does not have such a duty. This is a matter for the political parties. We have nothing to do with politics. [end recording]

Paper Views Candidates for Premiership

BK1712033191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Dec 91 p A9

[Editorial: "Still No Clear Front Runner for Premiership"]

[Text] The next general election is only about three months away, yet none of the country's prominent politicians, especially the party leaders, appear to have a comfortable lead in their race for the premiership. This leaves open the possibility that the next prime minister may not come from the House of Representatives.

Though no party is in the lead, the New Aspiration, Chat Thai, Democrat and Samakkhi Tham parties (not necessarily in that order) are widely seen as the top four to beat. Trailing the first group are the Phalang Tham,

Social Action and Prachakon Thai parties. And Solidarity, Puangchon Chao Thai, and Ratsadon are struggling in the back, with a few smaller parties, like Liberal, Muanchon, and United Democratic, preparing to merge into larger parties or dissolve themselves.

NAP [New Aspiration Party] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has narrowed down his choices of constituency to Nonthaburi and Bangkok. The ex-army chief resides in Nonthaburi, where Prachakon Thai won three of the four House seats in the 1988 general election. Chawalit and Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sundaravet are on amicable terms. But one of the three Prachakon Thai MPs, Prachum Rattanaphian, has joined Sammakhi Tham—the archrival of NAP—and could complicate Chawalit's calculations.

Bangkok, the stronghold of Phalang Tham and Prachakon Thai, has no safe seat for Chawalit either. If he is to choose the capital, he would probably go to Constituency 2 where the contest is wide open as former SAP [Social Action Party] leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila is retiring and Marut Bunnag of the Democrat Party is not healthy. Singer Suthep Wongkamhaeng, who came third behind Sitthi and Marut in the last election under Phalang Tham's banner, reportedly is contemplating switching to NAP. Suthep can be a vote-getter in the constituency, which covers Yaowarat (Chinatown) and a few other inner city districts.

Chat Thai's new leader, ACM Sombun Rahong, is looking for coat-tails to ride on in his first election. One possibility is to tag along in Sano Thiangthong's team in Prachin Buri, where all six House seats were captured by Sano's team. Another possiblity is to join Watthana Atsawahem in Samut Prakan provided that Sombun manages to woo Watthana, a former Chat Thai member who is now secretary-general of Ratsadon, to return to the Chat Thai fold. Ex-Chat Thai leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan is playing his cards carefully. He received a hero's welcome in his constituency in Nakhon Ratchasima over the weekend. But his position is weakened by having relinquished the party leadership post to Sombun; he also faces confiscation of over Bt [bhat] 100 million of his assets as a result of the Sit committee's ruling that he acquired the wealth through questionable means. Chatchai has little to gain from winning another election if he cannot return to the premiership. The outcome of his re-election bid depends on how much political support he can really get from other Chat Thai executives, especially from those who are being investigated by the Sit committee and are trying to appease military leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council.

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai seems to be the only political leader enjoying some tacit acceptance by the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] leaders. He will have to defend his party's stronghold in the South and help a new generation of Democrats reestablish a political presence in Bangkok which the oldest party has lost to Phalang Tham and Prachakon Thai. Chuan's prospects of becoming the next prime minister depends not only the number of House set as Democrats get but also whether or not the military leaders need him as a stop-gap prime minister.

So far the most optimistic—and rather unrealistic—contender is Narong Wongwan of Sammakhi Tham. He and his followers have boasted about having enough "good" candidates to win at least 100 of the 360 House seats. The pro-military party would be lucky to get half that much, considering the growing doubt among several veteran politicians who are reconsidering whether it is prudent of them to join this top-heavy party, especially now that Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and Air Force Commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin have publicly ruled themselves out of contention for the premiership.

Narong says he is ready to accept the premiership if his party has enough votes to lead in forming the next coalition government. But his weak leadership during his unsuccessful days first at Ruam Thai and later at Solidarity count heavily against him.

If after the election there is no clear winner and no agreement among these top four parties, then a compromise choice may have to be taken from outside the House. In such a scenario, the military leaders will have a big say even though the next prime minister would not come directly from the NPKC.

Editorial Reviews Realigning of Political Parties

BK1812020591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Dec 91 p A10

[Editorial: "A New Political Landscape Emerging]

[Text] Since the emergence of the New Aspiration Party [NAP] last year and Sammakkhi Tham this year, both have grown quickly into big parties by recruiting former MPs and attracting influential retirees, changing the political landscape of Thailand. In anticipation of a tough and costly contest ahead, small parties are looking for a merger deal with some medium-sized partners, and large parties are trying to co-opt medium-sized parties to enlarge their size and thereby increase their chances to win a lion's share of the 360 House seats in the next general election, which is expected to be held next March.

Chat Thai, which arguably is still the largest party, is no longer in a dominant position. But its co-option of Watthana Atsawahem's faction in the Ratsadon Party will strengthen it somewhat. At least Wattana can provide new Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong with a safe seat in Samut Prakan, where Watthana came first in the three-MP constituency No 1 in the 1988 election.

Ratsadon-Chat Thai deal

The deal with Chat Thai was what Watthana, secretary-general of Ratsadon which had 21 MPs in the previous

357-member House) had been looking for since Ratsadon leader Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan stepped down and washed his hands of politics after he was cleared by the anti-graft Sitthi committee. A few former Ratsadon MPs have joined New Aspiration because of their ties with NAP leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Chat Thai is also wooing the Puangchon Chao Thai Party of Gen Athit Kamlang-ek. The one-time army strongman remains non-committal, perhaps waiting for a better offer from Chat Thai. Though his party won only 17 setas in the last election. Athit seems confident that time is on his side. After all he still has the firm allegiance of Suwat Liptaphanlop, who received the largest number of votes in Nakhon Ratchasima's constituency No 1—beating then Chat Thai leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, who came second, by nearly 36,000 votes. Suwat further showed his clout by obtaining the post of deputy communications minister in the Chatchai administration, even though he was only a first-time MP in his mind- 30s.

The conventional wisdom is that Suwat can help or foil a re-election bid by Chatchai. That's why Chatchai remains undecided in spite of the public sympathy for him during his homecoming visit to the northeastern province over the weekend.

Like Puang Chon Chao Thai, Prachakon Thai is another confident medium-size party (31 MPs in the previous House) monoeuvring to increase its bargaining power and join the next coalition government regardless of which major party forms the core of the coalition. The Liberal Party (3 MPs) of Col Narong Kittikhachon may join Prachakon Thai but the party of Samak Suntharawet needs something else to boost its position in Bangkok, where the Phalang Tham Party of Bangkok Governor Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang is steadily gaining popularity.

Phalang Tham (15 MPs) looks quite comfortable and ready for the next election. The centrist party is so confident that Chamlong is no longer considering resigning the governorship and personally standing in the next election.

Meanwhile, Social Democratic Force Party is in disarray after its only former MP, Chatchawan Chomphudaeng, left for Sammakkhi Tham. United Democrat Party (5 MPs) is struggling for survival as its leader, Col Phon Roerngprasoetwit, fights bankruptcy cases in courts.

The future of Muanchon Party hangs in the balance as party leader Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem Yubanrung is pinned down by a ruling of the Sitthi committee that he amassed wealth through questionable means while he was PM's Office minister in the Chatchai administration. The party had 5 MPs, including Chaloem, but three of them have left for other parties while Chaloem has been in exile in Denmark.

The departure of a large group of dissident former MPs left Social Action Party [SAP] in a weak position. SAP won 54 House seats in the last election, but now it looks unlikely that it will be able to win half that many in the election next year. Moreover, party leader Montri Pongpanit has yet to be cleared by the Sitthi committee.

Most of the former SAP MPs have tentatively joined Sammakkhi Tham, but some of them may be looking for other opportunities elsewhere now that the group candidacy—which was believed would benefit the pro-military party the most—will not be used. Solidarity in decline

Solidarity Party has only about a dozen former MPs left after ex-leader Narong Wongwan led a mass defection to found Sammakkhi Tham. The party is relatively worse off than SAP and may not be able to win more than 10 seats in the next election. But remaining Solidarity leaders are too proud to ask for help from other parties.

While several parties are jockeying for position, the lineup will become clearer as soon as the election date is set. But the trend is clearly leading to a contest among four major parties: NAP, Chat Thai Sammakkhi Tham and Democrat. The medium-sized ones—Phalang Tham, SAP and Solidarity—are expected to try to defend their turf in the hope of getting an invitation to join the next government coalition.

Vietnam

19 Dec Morning National Assembly Session Reported

BK1912061491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] This morning, the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly continued its work at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

In the morning session, the National Assembly discussed the restoration of order and discipline throughout the country and focused on anticorruption and antismuggling.

Expressing their views, National Assembly deputies pointed out the need to accelerate the struggle against corruption and smuggling, evaluated the results of the this struggle in the recent past, and advanced a number of basic measures for the control and prevention of these two vices.

Many deputies suggested that an interim committee of the National Assembly be set up to combat corruption and smuggling under the present situation.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue its debate on the two above-mentioned issues at the Conference Hall.

Communique No. 6 Issued

BK1812151291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Communique No. 6 of the Eighth National Assembly's 10th session]

[Text] On 18 December, the National Assembly held a plenary session in the Conference Hall. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed the session.

The National Assembly continued discussing the Council of Ministers' report on the socioeconomic tasks for 1992 and the 1991-95 five-year period as well as the 1992 state budget.

Twenty-eight deputies expressed their opinions, focusing on major policies and ways to effect changes in 1992. These include measures to curb inflation; stabilize the financial and monetary situations; adjust state budget allocations; resolve the unemployment problem; adjust the wage system; and tackle issues related to goods circulation, supply of essential goods, educational and public health-care services in mountain regions and areas inhabited by ethnic minority people, and exploitation of the potential of the various economic sectors.

The National Assembly will continue to work in the Conference Hall on 19 December.

Deputies' Views on Corruption, Smuggling Reported

BK1912055591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 17 Dec 91

[From press review]

[Text] NHAN DAN today on its front page reports an exchange of views in group discussion by deputies on the socioeconomic situation and the enforcement of anticorruption and antismuggling law. The views focussed on analyzing the implementation of laws, clarifying the reason why the struggle against corruption and smuggling has not achieved any high results and the measures to be stressed in order to accelerate this task a step further.

Large numbers of deputies agreed on the points in the report on the future guidelines and tasks in these domains, aiming to consolidate and strengthen the operations and to adequately manifest the authority of law enforcement organs such as the inspection, police, control, tribunal and judiciary agencies; to manifest the strictness and fairness of law, to firmly maintain the confidence of the people in law agencies, and to establish by all means order and discipline in the new mechanism.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carries an article by Anh The recalling the views expressed by national deputies. Deputy Vu Manh Dinh of Thai Binh Province wondered whether the evil of corruption stemmed from the poor and underdeveloped economy of our country. It is probably because we have not been able to step up production while too many people are unemployed or workers' wages have not been commensurate with their manpower spent. All these have resulted in corruption and smuggling. We think that the first and foremost important point is to accelerate production in order to fight corruption and smuggling. At the same time, there must be a uniform and strict mechanism.

Deputy Tran A Sang of Lao Cai Province said that many corrupt cadres have been overlooked by internal affairs agencies or been authorized to retire by responsible agencies. In Lao Cai, the inspection committee detected but ignored a case of bribery in the task force units which involved 2 million Dong. In fact, there have been serious cases of corruption in various agencies which have been ignored. Meanwhile, minor cases among the people have been arrested and heavily punished. The people have therefore lost their confidence in and become opposed to many officials in state agencies.

Deputy Pham Van Viet of Vinh Phu Province maintained that the important point is that we must have a proper economic management mechanism suitable to realities. Corrupt people first of all call for an effective law enforcement machinery.

HANOI MOI reflects the views of Hanoi deputies' delegation. Hanoi deputies profoundly realized that the dangerous effects of corruption which would cause the socialist regime to collapse at a certain time without being affected by outside subversion. As a result, fighting corruption constitutes a struggle for the survival of the socialist regime. Although corruption in our country is still minor, it is widespread, much worrying the people. If policies and laws are not manipulated, all that the people need to do in order to feel at ease is to comply with law. On the contrary, even though they have abided by law, they are still harassed by responsible authorities. This very evil of harassing corruption has caused the people to lose their confidence in the party, the state and social justice.

Defense Minister Writes to 338th Division

BK1812160191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 10 Dec 91

["Contents" of letter from Minister of National Defense to cadres and combatants of the 338th division on its 35th founding anniversary—date not given]

[Text] Dear Comrades: On the 35th founding anniversary of your division, 11 December 1956-11 December 1991, on behalf of the Military Commission of Party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, I extend my kind regards and warm greetings to the cadres, combatants, defense workers and personnel, war invalids, and families of fallen combatants from all generations of the division, including comrades who have retired or have been transferred to other services.

Over the past 35 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and esteemed President

Ho Chi Minh and the protection and assistance of the party and administrative organizations and people of various localities, cadres, combatants, and defense workers, and personnel from all generations of the 338th Division—comprising units that fought on the southern battlefields—have always been united in overcoming difficulties and hardships to satisfactorily fulfill all combat assignments. This includes training new cadres and combatants in support of various battlefields during the wars of resistance in the past. They have also recorded many achievements in economic development.

The 338th Division has contributed worthily to the liberation, unification, construction, and defense of the country and the safeguarding of the socialist regime, thus successfully establishing its glorious tradition. The division has been accorded the honor of welcoming visits made by Uncle Ho and many other high-ranking party, state, and military leaders. It has also earned many high and valuable awards from the party and state.

On this occasion, I would like to warmly commend cadres and combatants from various generations of the 338th Division for their achievements during the past 35 years.

Dear comrades, to successfully implement the Seventh National Party Congress' resolution in compliance with the spirit of renovation and to resolutely make the Army a truly revolutionary, regular, and increasingly modern and well-trained, you must seek profound understanding and scrupulously implement all the viewpoints, lines, and policies of the party and state. You must also develop and enhance your political ability, and persist in the objectives of socialism and the country's process of comprehensive renovation.

You must uphold the sense of independence and self-reliance, strictly maintain discipline, preserve internal unity and army-people solidarity, pay attention to the livelihood of soldiers, fulfill all assignments and make yourselves even more worthy of being the brass bastion of the fatherland. You must join the entire party, Army, and people in successfully building and firmly defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and frustrate the imperialists' scheme of adopting the strategy of peaceful evolution against the Vietnamese revolution.

May I wish you, comrades, good health and many more brilliant successes in the new stage.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations.

Ha Bac Moves 700 People to New Economic Zone

BK1812135091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] In the past, Ha Bac Province has conducted area surveys and investigations, sped up administrative procedures, and given financial help to people who voluntarily move to new economic zones in the southern provinces. The province was given 500 hectares of land in Long An Province to settle 150 families with nearly 700 people including 450 people at working age. At the same time, the province also shifted another 50 families to Tay Ninh Province.

In order to help people to build their first material base on the new land, the province spent more than 31 million dong to create favorable conditions for the needy and to quickly settle their lives and make them productive.

Kien Giang Disciplines Dishonest Tax Officials

BK1812132891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Kien Giang Province has taken disciplinary measures and initiated legal proceedings against 14 cases of financial officers misappropriating more than 30 million dong in agricultural taxes. However, the local revenue service still displays a lax management over tax collection service, thus resulting in a relatively substantial tax collection shortfall.

A number of tax officials have been involved in various cases of negativism, thus adversely affecting the implementation of state policies and lines. However, no timely action has been taken against them. Some cadres in charge of grassroots establishments in Giong Rieng, Chau Thanh, Go Quao, An Binh, An Ninh, and other localities have not remitted agricultural taxes to the state for many years now. Some of them even collected taxes, gave receipts in handwriting, and then pocketed the money.

Thailand's Suchinda To Visit in January

BK1812123891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 18 (AFP)—General Suchinda Khraprayun, the strongman of Thailand's military regime, will visit Vietnam early next month for talks on bilateral relations, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will also visit Hanoi in January, the sources said, but the dates of his visit, which will follow Suchinda's, have yet to be fixed.

Thailand and Vietnam have stated a willingness to improve relations now that the Cambodian conflict, the principal cause of discord between Bangkok and Hanoi in recent years, is heading toward a final settlement after the four warring factions signed a peace accord in Paris two months ago.

Suchinda, supreme commander of Thailand's Armed Forces and vice president of the ruling junta, will begin a three-day visit January 6, the sources said.

While in Vietnam, he will meet General Le Duc Anh, number two in the Vietnamese Communist Party politburo, they added.

Anh, considered the stongman of the Vietnamese Government since the Communist Party congress in June, is responsible for defence, security and foreign policy.

According to one Asian diplomat, Vietnam has also invited Thai Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to Hanoi in February.

Thailand's deputy health minister is due to visit here from December 25-28 and its deputy industry minister from December 26-29.

This series of visits should allow the two countries to realise a marked improvement in relations, which suffered after Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in December 1978, Asian diplomats said.

During Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin's visit in September, both sides expressed their desire to develop economic relations and cooperation.

The following month, their joint committee on economic cooperation met in Bangkok, some days ahead of an official visit there by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

A Thai diplomat said the two countries already agree "on the stages to be taken to gradually eliminate the negative points" in bilateral relations.

Outstanding problems include some 300 Thai fishermen detained in Vietnam for allegedly violating its territorial waters and Vietnamese refugees in Thailand, he said.

He also said Hanoi suspected Thailand of aiding armed resistance movements in Vietnam and involvement in arms-trafficking across Cambodia and Thailand to Burma.

Suchinda said at the end of September that Vietnam still constituted a military threat to Thailand.

His remarks, however, have been widely viewed as aimed at those in Anand's government who oppose giving the Thai military more money to buy arms.

Government 'Respects' Soviet Union Dissolution

BK1912101491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 19 (AFP)—Vietnam respects the choice taken by members of the Soviet Union to end their "union" and replace it with a commonwealth of independent republics, a Vietnamese official said here Thursday.

"Vietnam respects the choice taken by the republics of the Soviet Union," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told AFP.

Vietnam "will develop its relations of friendship and cooperation with all the republics in accordance with the new situation," he added.

Five Soviet republics—Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyryzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan—have announced their intention of joining the commonwealth created by Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

The Soviet Union has been Vietnam's principal ally and supplier of aid for several decades. Hanoi has continued to declare it will remain a socialist state.

Since the beginning of the year, trade between the two countries has been conducted at world prices and in hard currency, replacing previous barter arrangements, while Soviet cooperation has virtually ceased.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Outgoing Cuban Ambassador

BK1812154891 Hanoi VNA in English 1424 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 18—President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong today received outgoing Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Armando Saucedo Yero.

The president highly appreciated the achievements recorded by the Cuban people in national construction and defence. He expressed his belief that the Cuban people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Fidel Castro would overcome all difficulties, successfully carry out the resolution of the 4th party congress, and gain new achievements in their revolutionary cause.

Ambassador Decorated

BK1912071891 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 19—The State Council has conferred the Friendship Order on Cuban Ambassador Armando G. Saucedo Yero for his contributions to the development on the friendship and cooperation between his country and Vietnam.

The conferment was made in Hanoi on Wednesday by Madame Nguyen Thi Dinh, vice president of the State Council.

The Cuban diplomat is winding up his term of office in Vietnam.

'Arafat Sends Thanks to Nguyen Nam Khanh

BK1812115391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Message of Thanks" from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of PLO Executive Committee, on 6 December to Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, chairman of Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with Palestine People]

[Text] With the highest interest and esteem, I have received your solidarity message sent on the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinians. Your

message on behalf of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity between the Palestinian and Vietnamese people has shown your solidarity and support for the struggle of Palestinian rights, including the right of return to our land, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish a government on our land.

I thank you for your constant solidarity and support for our correct undertaking and struggle for democracy, freedom, and sovereignty.

I highly regard your support for our policy of peace. I affirm that we are working for a peaceful solution on the basis of UN resolutions and on the principle of trading land for peace, despite Israel's plots of obstruction and sabotage to foil and alter the course of the peace.

We believe the Vietnamese people and our friends in the world will continue to assist and support our right struggle until we achieve our national aims of freedom and independence.

Trade Cooperation With Hainan To Begin in 1992

BK1812133291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] XINHUA news agency quoted the Hainan vice governor as saying that Hainan will implement its economic cooperation program with Vietnam next month. The province will send trade delegations to and open air and sea routes with Vietnam in January 1992.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Canadian Businessmen

BK1912074591 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19—Premier Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday a Canadian delegation which is here to discuss a project on associated gas utilization.

The Candaian delegation includes Mr. Robert Chretien, president and director general of Iquigaz; Mr. Denis Renier, president of SNC International Limited; and Canadian Ambassador Arthur C. Perron.

The Candadian ambassador expressed his country's desire to cooperate with Vietnam in gas production while the presidents of the Canadian companies presented to the Vietnamese leader their project on the ulitisation of associated gas, including the installation of an undersea gas pipeline and the construction of an on-shore LPG recovery plant, the estimated cost and results of recent feasibility studies, they said that Canada is also willing to cooperate with Vietnam in the production of nitrogenous fertilizer from petroleum gas. Premier Vo Van Kiet warmly welcomed the Canadian oil companies' cooperation. He said the Vietnamese Government is especially interested in the utilisation of associated gas for the production of electricity and nitrogenous fertilizer. He said he hoped that the Vietnamese-Canadian cooperation in associated gas production under the proposed project, will bring about practical results. He added that Vietnam is ready to cooperate with Canada in a long-term programme for the utilisation of associated and natural gas derived from oil development Vietnam.

The Canadian guests were received by Minister of Heavy Industry Tran Lum. They also met with officials of the State Commission for Sciences, the Ministry of Energy and the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation.

Australia

Prime Minister Hawke Replaced by Paul Keating

BK1912083091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0820 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Australia has a new prime minister, Paul Keating. The former treasurer won in the Labor Party caucus ballot against the incumbent prime minister, Bob Hawke.

Mr. Keating challenged Mr. Hawke after the prime minister earlier in the day declared he would resign at a special caucus meeting in Canberra and nominate again for the prime ministership.

Mr. Keating won in a secret ballot by 56 votes to 51. The result brings to end months of infighting and instability in the Labor Party over who will lead the government at the next elections due in early 1993.

Hawke Congratulates Keating

BK1912111891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 19 (AFP)—Bob Hawke, the former union official who led the Australian Labor Party to a record four election wins since 1983, was dumped on Thursday as prime minister by a secret ballot of MP's which he had called himself.

Hawke, 62, was defeated by 56 votes to 51 in a showdown with his former treasurer (Finance Minister) Paul Keating, who takes over as prime minister with Labor's electoral stocks at an all-time low.

After his defeat, a composed Hawke offered congratulations to Keating and said he was going to tender his resignation to the governor general Bill Hayden.

"My resignation takes effect from that point of time," he said.

Keating told a news conference that in the next few weeks he faced the important task of "restoring unity and harmony to the government."

"It would be futile to deny that the recent past has been a somewhat traumatic experience to all of us," he said.

"It is imperative that we are now all pulling in the same direction and, from my part of course need I say there will be no recriminations whatsover," he added.

There would be no raking over old ground, "only a commitment to get on with the task of governing this country."

Hawke, who laughed and wisecracked through a news conference, said he left the prime ministership "proud of the record of achievement of the government which I have had the honour and privilege of leading for nearly nine years."

"The Australia of 1991 is a profoundly better place than the Australia of early 1983 that inherited," he said.

"Australia is now a more outward looking, a more tolerant and a more competitive country than it was when I came to office."

But Hawke admitted to being "deeply hurt" about high unemployment, now running at 10.5 percent of the workforce.

"My deepest understanding and sympathy is with those who are suffering at this time and I simply say that I will do everything in my new capacity to encourage new policies which will be calculated to meet and improve that situation," he said.

Keating faces the dual challenge of leading the country out of a recession it has endured for 18 months and rebuilding a bitterly divided Labor Party, demoralised after months of leadership feuding.

As he left the meeting with his wife Anita, Keating said: "It is a great honour to be elected leader of the Labor party."

Keating, 47, described the election as "a humbling experience," adding: "I feel the the poignancy of the moment."

The meeting was called at Hawke's request to end six months of uncertainty after Keating made an unsuccessful bid for the top job in June.

Over many years opinion polls consistently showed Keating to be Australia's most unpopular politician and, during the last year, the man blamed by most Australians for causing the recession.

He was dubbed "Mr. Recession" by opposition leader John Hewson in Parliament Thursday.

Hours before the ballot, John Scott, a left-wing MP who supported Hawke, talked bitterly of the "poisoned chalice" Keating could expect to inherit from Hawke and warned that many MPs would make "life very difficult for him."

Another, Laurie Ferguson, described Keating as "a dead loss" who would be responsible for "a monumental defeat of catastrophic proportions" at the next election.

But Hawke told journalists after the meeting that he would ask his supporters not to destabilise the Keating government.

Now the party had made its choice, he said, "Paul Keating will have my total support."

"You will not be hearing one word from me critical of Paul Keating and the new Keating Labor Government," Hawke said.

"I haven't spent 44 years of my life as a member of the party and some 31 years working in the labour movement to now start doing anything that would be anti-Labor. That would not be Bob Hawke."

Industry Minister John Button told journalists he believed Keating "has the capacity to heal the wounds."

He said the the problems confronting the party were too great for people to "nurse grudges."

Hawke's defeat came six months after Keating's resignation as treasurer in the wake of his failed bid to topple Hawke in round one of his leadership campaign.

The resulting split between the two ended the eight-year Hawke-Keating partnership which gave the Labor Party the most successful era in its 100-year history.

Hawke referred to this after Keating's resignation, thanking him for providing "one of the outstanding combinations in post-war politics."

Hawke told the news conference that some of his "dear friends" had suggested he should consider standing down in January.

"They thought that might be easier for me and I thank them for their consideration and their suggestion, but I took the view that was not the right course of action basically for two reasons."

One, he believed he had the best chance of leading Labor to victory "in what I regard as one of the most important post-war elections, the 1993 elections."

But he said the fight was over as far as he was concerned. "I put everything I had into trying to win the fight.

"My concern now is to put everything into seeing that the new Labor government performs well."

Secondly, the decision on the leadership "was a decision that the party would have to take."

Hawke promised to remain in public life, saying that in 31 years he had accumulated "an almost incomparable knowledge of this country."

"I know Australia better than anyone else," he said.

Parliament Views Aid to Papua New Guinea

BK1912102691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] A subcommittee of the Australian Parliament has recommended that aid to Papua New Guinea [PNG] should be maintained at current levels at least until 1998. However, it says the focus of the aid should be urgently changed away from direct budgetary support to funding of specific projects with an emphasis on education and the fight against crime.

The recommendations are contained in what is being described as the most wide-ranging report ever produced on Australia's relations with PNG.

The report also says Australia should adopt a more active diplomatic role to help resolve the impasse between the PNG Government and secessionist rebels on the island of Bougainville. It describes the Bougainville problem as an intractable problem that is a vital threat to national unity. Another recommendation is that Australia and PNG study a free trade agreement similar to the economic links between Australia and New Zealand.

The report also says there is great potential for investment in PNG but this is being inhibited by security problems.

New Zealand

Canadian Network Buys Share of TV3 Group

BK1812113391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Wellington, Dec 18 (AFP)—Canada's biggest private television network, CanWest Global Communications, Wednesday bought a 20 percent share of New Zealand's only private network, the ailing TV3 group, receiver Keith Smith said.

The deal, to be made through an equity and debt investment in TV3, allows CanWest to increase its stake to 50 percent if it chooses.

CanWest will invest 10 million Canadian dollars (8.7 million U.S.) and will take over the management of TV3.

As part of the same deal Australia's Westpac Banking Corp. said it had agreed to lift its holding from 40 percent to 48 percent.

Westpac New Zealand General Manager Bruce Alexander said the bank also held a right to raise its holding to 50 percent.

"Due to its recent success and the introduction of Westpac and CanWest as shareholders, the outlook for TV3 is very promising," Alexander said.

The initial shareholding will be Westpac 48 percent, CanWest 20 percent and the receiver will hold 32 percent.

TV3 hit the airwaves in November 1989 in competition against state-owned Television New Zealand's two channels, and more recently against a number of pay and regional stations.

At the time TV3 was 15 percent owned by NBC of the United States.

By May 1990, with financial problems mounting, TV3 asked Westpac to appoint a receiver.

Westpac now has a strong presence in television in both Australia and New Zealand as it owns the Ten Network, one of Australia's three commercial networks which also went into receivership.

CanWest is listed on the Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg stock exchanges and owns four independent television stations and a regional network in Canada.